

The Baptist Record

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Aida Skripnikova still carries the torch for Christ

By Dan Wooding

Picture the scene. It is New Year's Eve 1961 and a slender, pale, brown-eyed young Russian girl is standing in the freezing cold in Nevsky Prospekt, handing out postcards on which she had written a poem of her own composition. The postcard was of a picture in the world-famous Hermitage Museum by Claude Lorrain, representing a harbor at sunrise; a sunrise on one side and a hand-written, self-penned Christian poem on the other.

"The poem on it expressed Aida's awareness of life's shortness, of its pain and grief, and the need to search for and find God before we die," wrote Xenia Howard-Johnston, in the book by Michael Bourdeaux, *The Evidence That Convicted Aida Skripnikova* (David C. Cook).

Suddenly the police pounce and she is roughly arrested. She knew she was in trouble, but didn't care. For this was the living legend: Aida Skripnikova of Leningrad.

A trial followed in a "Comrade's Court" and, for the terrible crime she had committed, Aida was informed that she must no longer live in Leningrad and that she was to lose her job as a laboratory assistant and be transferred to work on a building site.

"She took the sorrow of a suffering people upon her shoulders even before she was aware of it, for her father was shot as a pacifist while she was an infant," said Howard-Johnston.

Despite her banishment, Aida

was at the forefront of letting people in the West know about the plight of persecuted believers in the Soviet Union. And because of her activities, the police were constantly looking for her and, in 1965, she was again arrested at a prayer meeting held in a forest. Marfa Akimovna Skurlova, a witness at Aida's trial and a Christian friend, described Aida's arrest and subsequent trial in this way:

"We had a meeting in the woods, the police arrived and began chasing us off. They pushed and grabbed us by the hair. They took away several people; some they fined. Aida was arrested and brought to trial.

"And what a trial they organized. It wasn't a good court. She was brought to some factory; they shouted and made a noise; Aida wasn't even given a chance to speak."

After her release from prison at the end of 1966, she again had great difficulty in finding work. She was allowed to live in Leningrad, but registered in Volkhovstroye, where she moved into a friend's room in a communal flat. But she soon lost her job at a printing works for attending a prayer meeting.

She was considered to be insane to have behaved in such a way, and she was confined to a psychiatric clinic, but she was found to be completely normal and was released.

She was again put on trial again on July 11, 1968 after further

inquiries by the authorities into her activities in trying to get information abroad about persecuted Christians in the USSR. Despite her vigorous and well-argued defense, Aida was sentenced on July 15 to three years of imprisonment. But instead of becoming cowed by the persecution she was experiencing, she became even bolder.

"So deep was Aida's spiritual quality, so outgoing the love which she radiated, that even those among her fellow prisoners who had no sympathy with the Christian faith were moved to help her, wrote Howard-Johnston. "When the prison authorities tried to confiscate her Bible, the prisoners would all join in a conspiracy to conceal it. Between her and her fellows there was a constant unruffled atmosphere of love and trust."

She went on: "On April 12, 1971, Aida was released from prison. Her face had grown thinner during those three years, but it was alight with the life of Christ, who had granted his grace and presence."

Aida of Leningrad had become a symbol of faith under fire. Home movie films were smuggled to the West showing one of her releases from prison, smiling with cracked lips, and *Guidepost* magazine placed her pale face on the front cover.

Now more than two decades later, I wondered what had happened to Aida Skripnikova, so I asked one of my colleagues, Les

Samuel, the ASSIST (Aid to Special Saints in Strategic Times) missionary-at-large, to track her down and see how she was doing.

He found her, still single, living in an apartment in St. Petersburg, the restored name of Leningrad, sharing it with five families.

"Her spirits were excellent," said Samuel. "She is now 51 years of age and is active in evangelism, helping to run portable libraries from her Baptist church in a suburb of St. Petersburg. The church she attends in Volodarskaya is pastored by Fyodor Mhakovsky, another hero of the suffering church, who also spent many years in prison for his vibrant faith in Jesus Christ."

She told my colleague through Miriam, her Russian translator, that she would first of all like to greet her "brothers and sisters in the West" and thank them for their prayers and for assisting the Russian believers with Christian literature during what she described as "our difficult years."

Samuel revealed that Aida is now deeply involved in evangelism again. Aida saw the new freedoms as very important to non-believers in the former Soviet Union as a time when they could repent. "It is a kind of a rest for the people who are around us who don't know the Lord. It is their opportunity. It is their chance."

She then described the portable libraries she is involved with, one of which is placed at a strategic metro station in the city. People come to it and get Christian literature and Bibles and take them

home to read.

"We've also got portable libraries which go into the suburbs of St. Petersburg and take literature there," she said. "People can easily come and take literature and read it. After that, they are welcome to come to the church and some of them do and attend the meeting."

Her Baptist church, she said, which has some 300 members, has been active in sending teams out to share the Gospel. "For example, not long ago, our friends returned from a trip from the north and now are in a short trip to the Abskove area to evangelize."

"We have already had three baptism services this year and a total of 50 people were baptized," she said.

Aida then explained why she never went to the West. "Even during the most difficult times, I didn't want to go somewhere else, but some times in prison I had hopes that maybe the West wasn't so terrible. Today, I don't want to leave Russia to go there. If God had called me to live in the West, he would have made it clear for me, but it was never clear for me. That's why I can't. God is not calling me to leave my country to go somewhere else."

"I think my place is here!"

Aida of Leningrad knows where her mission field is. What an example of courage and faith she is to us all!

Wooding is a journalist now living in California where he is the founder and international director of ASSIST.

European English-language churches grow

WIESBADEN, Germany (BP) — As American soldiers head home by the thousands from post-Cold War Europe, they take with them the need for English-language churches in some areas.

Five English-language Baptist churches in Germany have closed during the past year because of the "drawdown" of U.S. military forces.

Up to 350,000 American troops were in Europe during the Cold War. But since the breakup of the Soviet Union, U.S. troops there already number fewer than 220,000, with more cuts to come. By 1995, fewer than 100,000 American soldiers will be in Europe, military leaders say.

But an ambitious church-planting effort begun several years ago has resulted in the starting of seven new churches, reaching mostly English-speaking internationals.

The churches are affiliated with the European Baptist Convention (EBC) based in Wiesbaden, Germany, a fellowship of 60 English-language churches with close Southern Baptist ties.

The churches that closed were smaller congregations whose members were mostly U.S. military personnel. But launching of the seven English-language Baptist churches in Bulgaria, Italy, Germany, Portugal, and Hungary in the past year has offset the losses.

Increasingly, EBC churches have begun reaching out to English speakers in Europe with no U.S. military connections.

Eastern Europeans are particularly keen on learning English. They see the language as their key to better economic lives. When a Baptist church in Wroclaw, Poland, opened a school to teach English two years ago, more than 2,000 people applied.

— In Frankfurt, Germany, about 60% of Bethel International Baptist Church's members relate to the U.S. military. But already members include English-speaking Russians, Romanians, South Africans, Sudanese, British, and others.

— Immanuel Baptist Church in Madrid, Spain, has lurches from a 90% military membership to an attendance of about 70 most Sunday mornings, with more than 15 nationalities represented.

— In Budapest, Hungary, an English-language congregation already has an average weekly attendance of 50 to 60 people.

Southern Baptists interested in the church-planting ministry should contact John Merritt or Ray Reynolds at the European Baptist Convention office: 60 Sonnenberger Strasse, W-6200 Wiesbaden, Germany (telephone 011-49-611-523016, fax 011-49-611-590883).



Aida's long-suffering faith has seen her beloved Russia throw off the shackles of religious persecution, allowing Southern Baptists to minister to people in that country in ways unimaginable only a few years ago. One of those once-unimaginable but now commonplace ministries is food distribution. Southern Baptists' Project Brotherhood volunteers (from left) Mark Lassiter, Fred Linsey, Lawson Newman, and B.G. Johnson bag rice in Moscow earlier this year in response to food shortages across the country. (BP photo by Boris Yablakov)

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

If you don't like the message, shoot the messenger

As a Baptist, I find bits of news that create amazement. Is it not odd that a group would meet outside Mississippi to plan a strategy to extend their control over the Mississippi Baptist Convention?

On Aug. 20 "Baptist leaders" from 15 states met in Memphis, Tenn., to discuss plans for the fundamental/conservative to assume control of state conventions (as reported by Associated Baptist Press in the Sept. 3 issue of the Baptist Record). The meeting was called by Perry Ellis, executive director of the Texas Conservative Fellowship and T. C. Pinckney, a fundamental/conservative organizer from Virginia. Presumably Mississippi had representatives there.

The meeting was held at Bellevue Church and pastor Adrian Rogers delivered an address to the group. Rogers, who has been on some strange political-religious platforms lately, will also speak at the Mississippi Convention in November.

Pinckney declined to say how the meeting will effect state conventions this fall, declaring the results will vary from state to state. Part of the strategy is to (1) elect fundamental/conservative convention officers, (2) seek to influence denominational appointments on the national and state level, (3) selecting and instructing convention messengers from local churches, and (4) influencing business on the associational level. This type strategy has been extremely successful on the national level, including the control of the news media and the retiring of those who object.

One state pastor recently wrote in his bulletin that the news media (mainly the Baptist Record) is what keeps all of this stirred up. Be assured the Baptist Record did not call the Memphis meeting and I deplore outside groups planning the strategy for our state convention.

Now, while viewing the

extremes, Cecil Sherman, coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, on Aug. 29 addressed some 250 Cooperative Baptists in Kentucky. Sherman accused many Baptist preachers of not "telling the truth about certain parts of the (biblical) text." He cited differing passages of the same event and the wording of numerous passages. Honest Christians should stop saying they believe in an "inerrant Bible," he declared.

I have trouble with this. For 44 years I've been preaching a Bible which I believe is inspired and preserved by the Lord. So-called difficulties and apparent inconsistencies have been exposed and the Bible still stands as the Word of God and God speaks without error.

In this editor's opinion, we need neither Mr. Sherman with his "honesty" nor the Dallas-Memphis-Atlanta alliance telling us how to believe or how to operate the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Religious leaders decry misuse of religion in presidential race

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Religion has been abused as a issue in the presidential campaign, according to a statement issued Aug. 28 by a diverse group of U.S. religious leaders.

"Faith in God should unite us, not divide us," said the statement, which was signed by more than 50 persons, including 17 Baptists.

The statement was prompted in part by President George Bush's recent remark to an evangelical audience that the Democrats had left God out of their party platform.

"We begin," the statement said, "with the proposition that God is neither Democrat nor Republican nor, for that matter, American. God transcends all national and political affiliations. God's precinct is the universe."

"Identifying the kingdom of God with any political party or candidate is presumptuous. None has a monopoly on the truth. All are subject to the faults and frailties of the human condition."

The signers include two former U.S. congressmen, the general secretary for the National Council of

Churches, the president of Habitat for Humanity, the founder of Bread for the World, the executive director of Evangelicals for Social Action, college and seminary professors, and pastors and denominational leaders from most religious groups in America.

The statement emerged as an effort among several individuals when religion became a weapon in the 1992 political campaign, said Baptist Joint Committee Executive Director James Dunn, a signer who helped to coordinate the effort.

Dunn said religious rhetoric was prominent at both national political party conventions, but comments made by Bush Aug. 22 at the National Affairs Briefing in Dallas triggered the statement.

All persons signed the statement as individuals, not representatives of their organization, because of their commitment to the prophetic role of religion in public life and church-state separation, Dunn added.

Other Baptist signers were Charles Adams, president, Progressive National Baptist Conven-

tion; Jimmy Allen, former SBC president; Joan Campbell, NCC general secretary; Tony Campolo, professor of sociology, Eastern College, St. David's, Pa.; Grady Cothen, former president, Baptist Sunday School Board; Carolyn Crumpler, retired executive director, Woman's Missionary Union; Everett Goodwin, pastor, First Baptist Church of the City of Washington, D.C.; Stan Hastey, executive director, Alliance of Baptists;

Darold Morgan, former president, Annuity Board; Tyrone Pitts, general secretary, Progressive National Baptist Convention; Fred Schwengel, a former congressman and now president of the Republican Heritage Foundation; James Scott, president, American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A.; Ken Sehested, executive director, Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America; Gardner Taylor, pastor emeritus, Concord Baptist Church, Brooklyn; Foy Valentine, former executive director, SBC Christian Life Commission; and Daniel Weiss, general secretary, American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A.



A new day

It was the kind of relaxed meeting you wish would surface more often. The food was superb; the company, delightful. Voices were soft and pleasant, matching the summer evening. About half the crowd was foreign missionaries, plus the deacons and wives of First, Church, Yazoo City and some invited mission friends.

Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission enterprise of Southern Baptists, was the guest of the banquet.

Parks spoke of the miracles taking place in our world, such as cities in Russia which we could not pronounce a year ago where we have churches now. He stated that, "one of the best meetings I've even been in was the Consultation of the Americas in November 1990 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The 36 nations represented were mainly concerned about how they could send missionaries and volunteers to other nations. This is a new era, a new day in missions."

He also recognized Gene Triggs as having served 10 years on the Foreign Mission Board. Triggs was chairman of the FMB for two years. W. W. Walley served eight years on the FMB, and also was chairman for two years.

"Both of these men became fast friends and I leaned on them heav-

ily," Parks stated. Walley is president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and continues a medical practice in Waynesboro.

Jim and Joy Yates, First Yazoo's pastor emeritus, sang a lovely medley of gospel songs. Missionaries and denominational workers paid tribute to Parks for his love and service to the mission cause. At one point Parks stated it was like attending his own funeral.

Chester Grisham, chairman of deacons, presented a plaque to Gene Triggs for his years of service to First Baptist Church, his work in Agricultural Missions, and other mission activities while a member of the Yazoo City congregation. Triggs is retiring and moving back to Jackson.

The banquet was winding down but words and phrases still hung in the air like the fragrance of cape jasmine. Parks had spoken of the death of his 93-year-old mother who had fought many battles in the prayer garden. He told of his childhood in Gravelly, Arkansas and of knowing little about missions until he went to college.

"We may have lived in the golden age of missions. We are now in a new age, a new day of outreach where one-fourth of the world has suddenly been opened to the gospel. Our responsibilities are greater than ever." — GH

Correction

In an editorial published Aug. 27 ("Our statement is being written"), I mentioned Ben Hilbun as a guest speaker at the 1944 Gulf Coast meeting. It should have been Bruce Hilbun. Ben at that time was registrar at MSU, and Bruce was the preacher. My apology to members of these two families. At one time, Bruce was fearful of going blind and memorized the entire New Testament so he could continue to preach when he became blind. He had five sons, four of whom were in the ministry, and one a dentist. The entire Hilbun clan has made significant contributions to Mississippi and the spiritual life of our state. — GH

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HMB's Lewis asked to remove Freemasonry study director

NASHVILLE (BP) — A Home Mission Board study of Freemasonry is headed in a "compromising" direction and could become "watered-down, potentially destructive" unless corrective action is taken, a Texas physician has written to the board's president, Larry Lewis.

Larry Holly, a Beaumont, Texas, physician who brought the issue of Freemasonry to the Southern Baptist Convention last June, has written to Lewis asking him to replace the person assigned to head the study, Gary Leazer, director of the board's Interfaith Witness Department.

Or, Holly suggested, Lewis should establish "an official Home Mission Board liaison committee to review and critique the study" or ask the SBC Executive Committee to prepare a report "to balance" the HMB interfaith witness department's study.

Saying "Dr. Leazer's prejudice is overwhelming," Holly took issue with a number of sentences in a letter he obtained written by Leazer to an unnamed non-Southern Baptist.

With Leazer directing the study, there is "an approaching compromise of the integrity of the Southern Baptist Convention by one of its agencies," Holly told Lewis.

The study follows a vote by SBC messengers last June to instruct the HMB to address the issue. Holly had made a motion for a special ad hoc committee to study the Masonic lodge's compatibility with Christianity but messengers instead opted for a study by the HMB.

"I assure you I did not ask for this impossible assignment," Leazer continued, "but my staff and I will give it our best effort and let the messengers fight it out on the floor of the Convention next June."

I feel like a sacrificial lamb."

Leazer still to direct HMB Freemasonry study

Gary Leazer will continue to lead the Home Mission Board's study of Freemasonry despite a call for his replacement, said Lewis.

Lewis said messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Indianapolis were clear: "We have no choice as to who will do the study. The convention directed the Interfaith Witness Department to do the study."

"As director of the Interfaith Witness Department, he (Leazer) is responsible for leading that study and assuming that it is done in a fair and thorough manner," said Lewis.

Compiled by Art Toalston of BP and David Winfrey, associate director of news and information, HMB.

1992 BSU convention set for Starkville

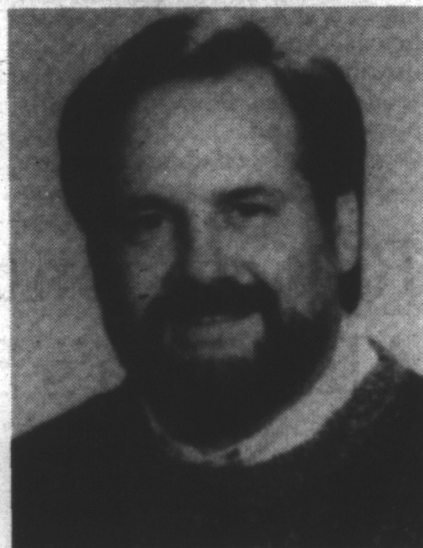
The 1992 Mississippi Baptist Student Union Convention will take place at First Church, Starkville, Sept. 25-27 with the theme "Good News... Gotta Share It."

The convention, sponsored by the convention board's Department of Student Work, will feature David Guinn, of Waco, Texas,

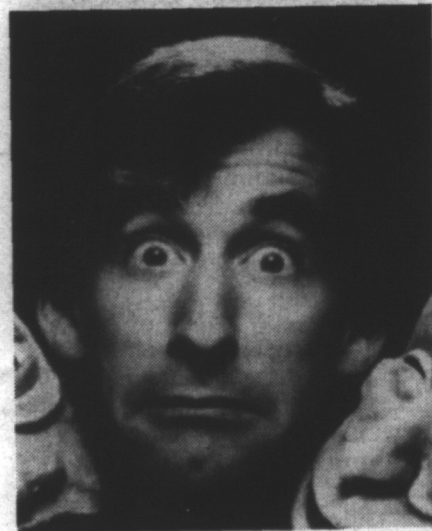
with Stress; Managing Money, Time and Friendships; God's Will and How I Fit; Date Rape; Is Summer Missions for Me?; Ministering Through Creative Arts; Dating and Marriage;

Disciplines of the Disciple; Seminary Education; Developing a Healthy Self-Image; Sharing My Faith on Campus; Dealing with Addictions; and Christian Response to Racism.

Saturday afternoon is free time and Saturday evening's session begins at 7 with testimonies of 1992 summer missionaries and a special program by Berky. Sunday morning at 9, features a message by Guinn with adjournment at 10:15.



David Guinn



Doug Berky

director of Action Ministries, an evangelistic program aimed at young people; Doug Berky of Greenville, S.C., a mime; and Kyle and Susan Matthews of Atlanta, a music team.

The program will begin on Friday evening at 6:45 including music by the Matthews and theme interpretation by the Matthews and Berky.

Saturday morning offers testimony by Guinn and a series of conferences. Topics include Coping



Kyle and Susan Matthews

Baptist relief workers find baby amid Andrew's rubble

FLORIDA CITY, Fla. (ABP) — An infant who survived the destruction of his mobile home by Hurricane Andrew spent almost a week buried under the debris before being rescued by Baptist relief workers Aug. 29.

Almost six days after the hurricane hit Aug. 24, a Baptist work crew found the child amid the wreckage of the Everglades Labor Camp, once a mobile home park for migrant workers in Florida City. The crew, from University Church in nearby Coral Gables, was delivering food to park residents left homeless by the hurricane.

The workers scoured the area for the baby's parents but to no avail,

said Mack Wiggins, who was part of the work crew. Although the infant was presumed to have lived in one of the shattered mobile homes, none of the residents who were left at the camp could offer a clue to the child's identity.

The workers speculate the baby's parents either were killed or assumed their missing child was dead.

The dehydrated infant, estimated to be about six months old, was immediately turned over to Red Cross nurse Ginny Hammond who accompanied the work crew. The child was taken to a temporary hospital set up at Homestead Middle School, Wiggins said.

(See related items on pages 5, 10)

SBC Cooperative Program receipts down in August

NASHVILLE (BP) — Cooperative Program funds received by the Executive Committee dropped nearly 8% compared to the same month a year ago, according to Harold C. Bennett, the committee's president-treasurer.

The August 1992 figure, \$11,210,624, is 7.85% below the same month in 1991, \$12,165,114.

"This decline of \$954,489 is deeply regretted," Bennett said. "That means the Foreign Mission Board received \$477,000 less from the CP in August than it would have received. Also the Home Mission Board's income was reduced by \$186,600 and our six seminaries by almost \$194,000."

With just one month to go in the SBC fiscal year, Cooperative Program receipts for the year-to-date are 1.2% behind the previous year. As of Aug. 31, the 1991-92 CP totals are \$127,842,615 compared to \$129,399,470 in 1990-91.

The monthly basic operating budget is \$11,725,856 and the year's budget is \$140,712,282.

Designated gifts remain a bright spot in the SBC fiscal picture with August gifts 10.47% ahead of that month a year ago. August 1992 designated gifts were \$2,524,083 compared to August 1991 of \$2,284,771. For the year-to-date, designated gifts are up 3.13%; \$126,243,899 compared to \$122,410,610 in 1990-91.

Mississippi gifts to CP fall from 1991 totals

Mississippi Baptist churches gave \$1,379,898 in August through the Cooperative Program, according to Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board which forwards the funds to the various channels.

Cooperative Program gifts for 1992 total \$14,035,576, which is \$80,380 (or .58%) less than that given for the first eight months of 1991.

In pro rata giving, gifts are

behind the 1992 budget of \$21,588,435 by a total of \$356,714 (or 2.48%).

The convention board closes the monthly books on the last day of the month, which in August was a Monday.

A total of 37 percent of Mississippi Cooperative program funds go to worldwide Southern Baptist causes, the rest funds such programs as Christian higher education, church leader training, and child care.

FMB selects interim chief; ten candidates head list

Former missionary Don Kammerdiener was tapped by trustees to become interim president of the Foreign Mission Board after R. Keith Parks retires Oct. 30. Kammerdiener, of Kansas City, Mo., a 30-year missions veter-



Kammerdiener

an, has been executive vice president of the board since January 1990 and has administered day-to-day operations in that role. Meanwhile, the search for a new president has narrowed to 10 candidates, according to a progress report from the board trustee committee handling the search. The committee could recommend a successor to Parks within three to six months, said committee chairman Joel Gregory.



Testimony of a champion

Carl Lewis shares his Christian testimony of athletic victory and defeat on the world stage with an overflow audience at the Palace of Music in Barcelona, Spain. Lewis added two more gold medals to his total at the Barcelona Olympics, even though he wasn't given much of a chance to win because of his age and his mixed record over the past year. Lewis, who has been active in Christian outreach for 12 years, said that when he loses, "That's when the Lord comes to me and says everything is going to be all right." The service was organized by missionaries and Southern Baptists.

Henderson selected editor of Arkansas newsjournal

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP) — Trustees of the Arkansas Baptist newsmagazine selected 11-year Baptist journalist Trennis Henderson as the newspaper's editor in a unanimous vote Sept. 1.

Henderson, 33, managing editor of Missouri Baptists' Word & Way newsjournal, will succeed the late J. Everett Sneed who died June 26 after 20 years as the Arkansas paper's editor.

Henderson, who will assume his new post Oct. 20, said, "I am committed to providing objective, balanced news coverage which contributes to the growth, encouragement, and unity of Arkansas Baptists as we seek to faithfully serve the Lord together."

Henderson has been Word & Way managing editor since 1985. He joined the paper's staff as associate managing editor in 1982.

Home missionary complains of ACTS-VISN network link

By Sarah Zimmerman

ATLANTA (BP) — A Southern Baptist home missionary is "extremely upset" by the ACTS network decision to share a channel with VISN, but his opinion does not represent the Home Mission Board, the agency's executive vice president said.

Bill Gordon, HMB Interfaith Witness Department eastern U.S. area director, issued his four-paragraph statement through SBCNet, a computer network sponsored by the Sunday School Board. About 150 outlets access SBCNet each week.

Bob Banks, HMB executive vice president, said Gordon's letter expresses his personal opinion, not a Home Mission Board statement.

Gordon's complaints concern cult groups having access to programming on the same channel as

ACTS. VISN includes programming from a variety of religions, including Christian Science, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) and Unitarian-Universalists, according to Gordon's letter.

Under the agreement, VISN will present 16 hours of programming each day while ACTS will present eight hours. Baptists' Radio and Television Commission approved the shared channel July 28, with the programming to take effect Oct. 1.

Gordon also expressed concern about not being able to teach about false doctrines through the ACTS network. The agreement with VISN prohibits maligning of other faiths as well as on-air solicitation of donations and proselyting.

Zimmerman writes for HMB.

Mississippi Baptists finish food project in Moscow, work remains

By Tim Nicholas

Mississippi Baptists played an integral part of a five-month food distribution project in Moscow.

The distribution is a part of a larger program called Project Brotherhood which includes shipment of food boxes from the U.S., scores of medical assistance projects, and training for Russian Baptist leaders, according to James Williams, Brotherhood Commission president, whose organization spearheaded the project.

Mississippi Baptists provided two teams of volunteers working in Moscow two weeks each — 11 of the 84 volunteers — with financial assistance from the state Baptist disaster relief ministry, and two Mississippians who worked in Moscow two months as project coordinators.

The members of the two teams who traveled to Russia are Charles Thornton, Crystal Springs; George Smith, Ecu; Creslyn White, Brandon; Ronnie Ferrell, Isola; Jerry Bishop, Durant; Lee Castle, Macon; Don Tew, Shuqualak; and Jim Didlake and Tim Nicholas of the Convention Board staff.

The food distribution program included repackaging an estimated 360 metric tons of United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) bulk food into about 35,000 family packs for distribution in the Moscow area. Larger parcels of food were given to hospitals, orphanages, and pensioners' homes. Another 200 tons will be distributed by local Baptists. The food included flour, rice, lentils, powdered milk, baby formula, vegetable oil, and drums of butter.

The two Mississippi coordina-

tors for the last half of the project were Larry Taylor and Sammy Platt. Taylor, a member of First Church, Jackson, is president of Taylor and Jeanes, a diesel engine distributor and Platt, a member of First Church, Columbus, is a warehouse.

"It's like putting a Band-Aid on a serious wound," said Taylor of the distribution project. "But 10 pounds of food is a very important thing for those people." He said that "the good we did was that we left people trained to continue doing this."

so they let groups go to the warehouse for receipt of the food.

Among the special groups receiving food were families of disabled children, orphanages, hospitals, other church groups, and a leper colony. One of the more needful groups, according to Taylor, was a group of refugees from Azerbaijan. "These are unwelcome visitors to Moscow," he said. "They left us with a request to go to the State Department for follow-up on allowing them to come to the U.S. They don't know where food is coming from next week."

People interested in participating in Project Brotherhood as volunteers should contact the Mississippi Brotherhood Department. For information about the continued distribution of food boxes, or for donations for distribution of food and medicine in the CIS (former Soviet Union) write Project Brotherhood, c/o Brotherhood Commission, 1548 Poplar Ave, Memphis, TN 38104.

Taylor said he believes the food project is going to continue. He said Brother's Brother Foundation, a humanitarian relief organization which allocated food to the Baptist relief operation, had paid for the warehouse for additional time. The operation entails food distribution by several other groups, including the Russian Orthodox Church, Adventists, Catholics, and Jews.

The Baptist volunteers from the States worked alongside Russian Baptist volunteers placing food in the hands of people when they could. Taylor said it would take all day to make some of the deliveries

Platt said that they distributed Bibles as well as food. He said people in the central districts had Bibles, but in rural areas "those people really need Bibles." He and Taylor delivered 275 Russian New Testaments to rural churches. He said there are 150 new churches established in the last two years with 10,000 new Baptists sprung off of the Central Baptist Church in Moscow.

Said Platt of his two months in Russia, "It was a once in a lifetime situation." He said he was out bushhogging the other day and was thinking, "I miss them."

Retirement center crisis confronts Alabama's State Board of Missions

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP) — Alabama Baptist Retirement Centers has "threatened the financial integrity" of the Alabama State Convention with plans to build a nursing home in Dothan, according to Troy Morrison, convention executive secretary-treasurer.

In an unprecedented action, the convention's State Board of Missions Aug. 11 voted to recommend to the annual convention in November the following steps:

- to request ABRC consider no new projects for one year.
- to escrow the convention's 1993 budget allocation to ABRC.
- to conduct an independent audit of ABRC financial records.
- to appoint a five-person committee to study the feasibility of ABRC's ministry.

The immediate source of contention has been ABRC's plans to develop the nursing home facility in a joint project with Flowers Hospital, Inc., of Dothan.

According to Harrison, ABRC's original plans — to build on property given by First Church of

Dothan — were altered because ABRC could not get federal funding for the project.

Then when the state convention raised concerns over its potential liability, Harrison said ABRC "did the next best thing," asking Flowers Hospital to relocate the site and build on Flowers property. The agreement provided a way to preserve the hard-to-obtain "Certificate of Need" issued by the state, Harrison said. In the view of ABRC officials, the arrangement also shielded ABRC and the state convention from liability on the debt.

But the state board of missions' executive committee, still concerned about indirect liability and about ABRC incurring a debt without convention approval, appointed a special committee to study the bylaws question. That committee presented its motions in meetings Aug. 10-11 in Montgomery.

The motion also charged ABRC incurred a \$370,000-\$500,000 debt for preliminary work "with-

out prior approval of the Alabama State Convention."

ABRC argued the agreement does not expose the convention to liability and suggested convention officials were delving improperly into day-to-day affairs of ABRC.

But Morrison, as well as other members of the 19-member executive committee, maintained the agreement could expose the state convention to liability for the debt.

"Unless you take a firm, solid, definitive action," Morrison told the executive committee in an Aug. 10 meeting, "you could take millions of dollars that would go to our missions programs and spend it instead on building programs."

Morrison and others also questioned whether the agreement was a sound business venture. "It is a terrible business deal," he said. "It is a building built on land owned by Flowers Hospital and therefore will belong to the owner of the land. Yet ABRC is to stand for a \$4.5 million loan."

Carey will host banquet for church-related vocations

Guy Henderson, editor of the *Baptist Record*, will be the featured speaker at two of the three banquets for students in church-related vocations. James Street, pastor of Calvary Church, Jackson, will be speaker for the third.

The banquet at William Carey College in Hattiesburg will take place Sept. 28 at 7 p.m., with Henderson as speaker. Hardy Denham, coordinator for church-related vocations at Carey, is organizer.

Mississippi College will host its banquet on Sept. 29 at 6:30 p.m. with Street speaking. Michael Johnson, associate professor of religious education at MC, is organizer.

And the Blue Mountain College banquet will be at 7 p.m. on Oct. 2

with Henderson speaking. James Travis, chairman of the Bible Department at BMC, is organizer.

Purpose of the banquets is to provide fellowship, inspiration, and information to church-related vocations students on Baptist campuses. These meetings provide students contact with convention board personnel and other invited denominational leadership such as directors of missions.

The banquets are a part of the In Service Guidance program for ministerial students on Baptist campuses. The program is jointly sponsored by the campuses, the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department of the convention board, and the Home Mission Board.

New Southern dean hopes school can help unify SBC

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — The new dean of Southern Seminary's school of theology wants the seminary to be a catalyst for denominational unity.

"We need to begin to move out of an era of frustration into a time of positive transition... so as to be agents of unity for future generations in the Southern Baptist Convention," said David S. Dockery, who was installed Sept. 1 as dean during convocation services opening the fall semester at the Louisville, Ky., seminary.

Dockery's installation marks a major milestone in Southern's more conservative course charted last year in the school's "Covenant Renewal," a document approved in an effort to help relieve mounting tensions between faculty and conservative trustees. Trustees and faculty agreed in the covenant to

steer the school in a more conservative direction by filling future faculty vacancies with theological conservatives.

"We must develop a framework for faculty, administration, and trustees to live out our mutual commitments to the covenant," Dockery said in an interview.

New faculty members must affirm "the complete inspiration and truthfulness of Scripture," the seminary's confessional statement, and the covenant, Dockery said.

For the past two years, Dockery, who holds the faculty rank of associate professor of New Testament, has been general editor of the *New American Commentary* for Broadman Press, the publishing arm of the Baptist Sunday School Board. Previously, he taught two years at Southern Seminary and six years at Criswell College in Dallas.

Pastors' Conference slates speakers, announces program

The 1992 Mississippi Baptist Pastors' Conference, Nov. 9 in Jackson, will feature well known SBC platform personalities including Jay Strack, Fred Lowery, and Fred Wolfe.

The program, which kicks off with a luncheon at 11 a.m. at Primos Northgate in Jackson, features Jay Strack an evangelist and first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention. The luncheon is sponsored by RAPHA, a private counseling service.

The afternoon and evening sessions of the conference will take place in the auditorium of First Church, Jackson, where the Mississippi Baptist Convention will convene the next day.

The afternoon session begins at 1:30 with three speakers scheduled. They are Garland McKee, evangelism director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; Jack Millwood, pastor of First Church, North Mobile, Ala., and vice president of the SBC pastors' conference; and Fred Lowery, pas-

tor of First Church, Bossier City, La., and president of the SBC pastors' conference.

Musicians that afternoon include "Yo Yo" Collins and Greg Buchanan, harpist, with Larry Black, minister of music at First Church, Jackson, as music director.

The evening session begins at 6:30. Speakers include Robert McGee, founder and president of RAPHA; and Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Church, Mobile, Ala.

Musicians include the celebration choir and orchestra of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, with Gary Miller, church minister of music as director, and Greg Buchanan who will also share his testimony.

President of the pastors' conference is Ken Alford, pastor of Morrison Heights Church. Vice president is Bobby Williamson, pastor of Park Place Church, Brandon. Treasurer is Charles Wesley, pastor of White Sand Church, Jeff Davis Association.

Thursday, September 10, 1992

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



Two steps to Christian witness

Texas two-step In Barcelona was performed at the Summer Olympic Games by the 176-member chapel choir and orchestra of First Church, Dallas. A year of planning, a chartered Boeing 757 jet, and almost \$200,000 were dedicated to making the trip a success-

ful effort to share Christ with the international audience flooding into Spain for the Olympics. Large crowds were attracted to the American West themes and the tributes to Texas that were part of the 12 performances put on by the group while in Barcelona.

Churches in south Florida hit hard; Baptists calling up more relief units

Compiled from Baptist Press reports — The number of Southern Baptist churches in Florida's Dade County damaged by Hurricane Andrew now stands at 16, and the count may increase. The churches are located in the southern part of the county where hurricane wind gusts were measured as high as 160 miles per hour.

Churches with reported damage are First Church of Perrine, Wayside Church in Miami, First Church of Homestead, First Church of the Redlands in Homestead, First Church of Florida City, Glendale Church in Miami, Modella Church in Homestead, Naranja Park Church in Naranja, First Church of Cutler Ridge, and South Miami Heights Church.

Ethnic churches with reported damage include: Iglesia Bautista Betania in Homestead, Evangelique Haitian Church in Homestead, McCall Spanish Mission in Miami, Silver Palm Spanish Church in Miami, Hermosa de Leisure City Hispanic Church, and Cristianos Unidos in Princeton.

The Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission activated seven additional mobile feeding units from five states on Sept. 3 as Southern Baptist disaster relief efforts in south Florida continued to expand.

Units from Tennessee, Ken-

tucky, Virginia, Illinois, and Ohio are now en route and will be joining those from Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, Ohio, and South Carolina.

Feeding units are working without exception "to the maximum," some under extreme physical conditions, with the heat and humidity "out of sight," said Cecil Seagle, Florida Brotherhood director. "People are going to have to be patient with us."

said David Wideman, minister of education at University Baptist Church in Coral Gables, which served as a receiving site to send goods farther south.

By Aug. 26, Baptist food distribution sites needing security had National Guard troops posted around them.

Within 24 hours after Hurricane Andrew made landfall in south Louisiana, Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers were on the scene providing hot meals to storm victims.

Nine mobile feeding units representing the Mississippi Baptist Convention and six other state conventions, along with four child-care units, set up operations in areas of Louisiana impacted by the hurricane.

State mobile units and their positions on Aug. 28 were Oklahoma in Bayou Vista; Louisiana in

Thibodaux; Alabama in Houma; Mississippi in Baton Rouge; and Arkansas in Morgan City.

Operated by the Brotherhood departments of state Baptist conventions and associations, the disaster relief units range from tractor-trailer units to fifth-wheel trailers. Training and coordination of disaster relief volunteers is a ministry of the Memphis-based Brotherhood Commission, a Southern Baptist Convention agency.

Mississippi disaster relief unit reactivated for Florida service

The Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force was reactivated Friday morning to relieve exhausted members of the Virginia Baptist team who have been stationed in south Florida since Hurricane Andrew, according to Paul Harrell, director of the Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The Mississippi task force returned less than a week earlier from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where they served thousands of meals to victims of Hurricane Andrew in that state.

The first group of Mississippians flew to Florida on Friday. Team members include Jerald Welch of Greenwood, Doug Broome and Chris Webb of Waynesboro, Boyce Little of Carrollton, and David Wilkinson of Jackson. A second Mississippi team was placed on standby to drive to south Florida early this week.

Temperatures were in the 90's, there was high humidity, no electricity, little shelter, no jobs, no refrigeration, high frustration, short tempers, and firearms.

Mass confusion in Hurricane Andrew's aftermath drew questions about the security of some Southern Baptists working in the hardest-hit areas, relief coordinators said.

Reports of shots fired at National Guardsmen and potentially unruly crowds were among the concerns,



Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



Too many spouses around the house?

Honor one another above yourselves (Romans 12:10 NIV).

"I want you to write a book," a friend of mine said to me, "I've looked and looked, and I've never seen one on this subject. Believe me, there's a need for it! There are books galore on planning for retirement, but none on post-retirement adjustment to a spouse."

She went on to tell her own experience. All her married life her husband had worked, early and late. Consequently, he'd be tired or busy, and would not go places with her. She had blamed his non-going on his work schedule. But retired, he still won't go places with her, or seek to share her interests. His church-going, she said, is strictly limited to the Sunday morning service, though she is a part of several of the church's organizations and enjoys attending church-related conferences and conventions. "I've found I never really knew him!" she lamented. "I'd like to know how others in similar situations are dealing with this problem."

If I can gather enough information, I might write that book. Would you readers give me a little help? You senior adults who've had some experience along these lines, would you write me about them? I remember that "Dear Abby" asked senior citizens to tell her about their biggest problems — money, failing health, loneliness, boredom, or whatever — and she printed a bunch of their replies. A lot of them complained about "the spouse in the house," and all that time together due to retirement. You can write me at my home

address, 1006 Dogwood Drive, Clinton, MS 39056. (I'll keep your identity secret if you say so or print your name if you wish.)

Since at my house we are now both retired, I'm also doing my own research. (He says I came home and spoiled his playhouse, thinking up too much work!)

Sometimes, I hear, it causes problems when one spouse is a night person and the other a morning. Esteen Quinn said she and Harry both like to sleep until 11 a.m. Happily, we both like to get up at 6:30 a.m. and go to bed at 11 p.m.

Since W. D. retired before I did, he had been doing most of the cooking. I was afraid he might stop when I came home full-time. Though I do more now, he still helps. What a relief! Each of us has a specific set of chores. We do some together. Or we might try a trade: "If you'll go pay the water bill, I'll take out the garbage."

I worried, "Will incessant togetherness prevent finding a time for aloneness? Will I hear too much TV?" So far, we've worked that out fine. For privacy, he goes fishing or walks at the Mall and I retreat to my writing room or to a chair on the patio.

I'm aware of the rule, "Support your spouse's efforts and ideas." I've tried to like fishing, though maybe not hard enough. The best part to me is riding in the boat, wind in my face, or sitting in the boat, eyes closed, under a big umbrella, eating peanut butter and crackers with one hand, lazily holding a pole with the other. Am I

too old to learn to like the icky earthworms, to pierce the poor minnows, to take a flopping fish off the hook without getting finned? Too old to learn to sit patiently, never complaining of heat, itching, and thirst?

I nurture the hope that he'll learn yet to like traveling. He did fly to Idaho with me, I keep telling myself, and cruise to the Bahamas.

"Maintain separate interests" is one rule he understands. He encourages me to go to the library while he cleans his tackle box or to go to the Sunday School class meeting while he watches baseball on television. He tells me to fly off to Spain any time I wish — so I did, and that's where I am this week.

As we remember the past and plan together for the future, we do that with confidence that neither of us will fail in commitment to the other, either on good days or especially on mixed-up, crazy, disappointing days.

"Laugh a lot." We do that. The night I broke the lamp at 2:30 a.m., W. D. got up and started vacuuming so we would not cut our feet. Mama, visiting us and trying to sleep in the next room, thought we had insomnia and had started cleaning house in the middle of the night. She furiously stuck cotton in her ears and pulled the cover over her head, but could not shut out the pesky noise. Next day we all compared notes — and laughed.

What may seem to be a tragedy one day will sooner or later come out in the wash. So why worry? Have fun!

Deadline to sign up for '92 RA Day draws near

The Sept. 28 registration deadline for Royal Ambassador Day Oct. 3 at Mississippi College is fast approaching, according to officials



Wallace

in the Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, which sponsors the annual event. "Over 2,000 people representing 140 of our churches registered for RA Day in 1991. We expect another large crowd this year, so we are urging everyone to sign up as soon as possible," said Paul Harrell, Brotherhood director in Mississippi.

RA Day is open to all boys in grades 1-12 and their leaders. The \$7.50 per person cost includes admission to the RA celebration in the school's coliseum at 2 p.m., an

early dinner, and a ticket to the Mississippi College vs. Jacksonville State football game that evening.

Karl Wallace, missionary to Peru, will be the speaker at the celebration. Music will be provided by Gene Neal, minister of youth and activities at First Church, Vicksburg. The Mississippi College football players and cheerleaders will also be on hand to meet the RA boys.

Neal

Persons interested in attending RA Day should contact the Brotherhood department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. The telephone number is 968-3800.

Womens' conference cost will rise after October 1

Deadline for a reduced conference fee for the October Women's Conference is approaching.

The conference, titled "Lead On," takes place Oct. 9-10 at the Mississippi College coliseum. The fee is only \$20 if received by organizers by Oct. 1, and \$25 after that date. Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union President Joan Tyler of Collins says that participants are welcome to register and pay at the door, but that early registrants get the price break.

Featured speakers include Joyce Landorf Heatherley, Dellanna O'Brien, Lynne Cheney, and Jeannette Clift George. Heatherley is author of "Irregular People" and a conference lecturer. O'Brien is president of WMU, SBC and a former foreign missionary. Cheney is chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, a former college professor and wife of the U.S. Secretary of Defense. George, a Christian dramatist, is star of "The Hiding Place" and founder and director of the After Dinner Players.

Featured musician will be Cynthia Clawson, concert artist and winner of both Dove and Grammy awards.

Early Bird conferences begin at 2 p.m. Participants may choose any three. Topics include "Integrity in My Work Place," "Relating to Aged Parents," "Rebuilding Your Marriage: A Brick and A Sword," "Today's Teen: Sex, Drugs, Rock n Roll," and "Worship and Prayer: A Family Affair."

Other topics from which participants may choose include "My Time: Focused or Frazzled?" "Using My Gifts to Lead," "Don't Miss the Blessing: Ministers' Wives," "Woman on the Go: Making Time for Missions," "Issues and Answers: Life and Death," "Letting My Light Shine: Lifestyle Witnessing," "Prayer: My Church's Missing Link?" "Who's Minding the Kids?" and "Change the World: Your Own Backyard."

The general program begins at 6:30 that evening and concludes the next day.

MBMC begins Clinical Pastoral Education

The Mississippi Baptist Medical Center has laid plans to offer accredited Clinical Pastoral Education in the near future. Also, it will offer leadership resources in pastoral care, counseling, family life, missions education, deacon train-

ing, evangelism, and Continued Witness Training (CWT). The Chaplain's Department will go to individual churches or associations as well as sponsor hospital-based events.

Three new chaplains have joined

the department making the full-time staff complete. Paul Stephenson, director of the chaplains, came to MBMC as a qualified chaplain and counselor from the Home Mission Board. Barbara Kimbrel is the first female chaplain and came to MBMC from Montclair Church in Birmingham. Al Carden graduated from Mississippi College with a degree in music. John Vess comes from the Methodist Hospital in Houston, Texas, and is well qualified as a chaplain. Joe Stovall is the assistant director. He is a certified counselor with the Mississippi Alcohol and Drug Abuse counselors. He is available to churches in this area.

The 81-year history of health caring and Christian concern indicates a rich tradition upon which to build. The department has published a mission statement declaring its intent to serve the community through continuously improving medical care "and effective use of education and technology in a personal and compassionate environment."

Stephenson assures pastors and members that we will "stand in the gap" between your visits.



Three new chaplains have joined MBMC's Pastoral Care Department, making the full-time staff complete. Pictured are the full-time chaplains. Seated left is Paul Stephenson, director; and, right, Barbara Kimbrel. Standing from left are John Vess, Al Carden, and Joe Stovall, assistant director.

Retired home, foreign missionaries receive solicitations from inmates

The inmates of Parchman penitentiary apparently have obtained a Foreign Mission Board directory and have used it to bilk retired missionaries and others out of thousands of dollars. Also, Home Mission Board personnel have received letters and phone calls.

Meanwhile, the money order scams continue. Reportedly, one woman lost \$10,000 and another, \$15,000. The best thing to do when solicited is to refuse any telephone call from Parchman. This is a "cultivation process,"

requesting small things like stamps and toothpaste, then larger gifts as the scam continues.

If you still wish to help these solicitors, check it out with the Chaplains' Department, Box 40, Mississippi State Penitentiary, Parchman, MS 38738, or call Chaplain Roy Fullilove at (601) 745-6611. Also, the Sunflower Baptist Association, Charles Jones, director of missions, (601) 745-2145, can provide information on assisting prisoners in real need.

HOUSE TOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light: and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

September 10, 1992

HOUSE TOPS is a supplement to the Baptist Record and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Cooperative Program: Jehu Brabham, Champion



by Debbie Baird Buie

For 22 years Jehu Brabham has served on the staff of Parkway Church, Jackson. As church administrator he has been impressed time and again by the truth in Zechariah 4:6: "This is the word of the Lord . . . Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." Brabham believes that pretty much sums up how he feels about the Cooperative Program.

"It's not what I do, but what God can do through our cooperation with each other in partnership with Him," Brabham says. "That ought to be the real stimulus for our giving to the Lord, no obligation—just out of love."

"If the heartbeat of Southern Baptists is missions, then the lifeblood is the Cooperative Program. Our gifts keep up that steady pressure that keeps the heart pumping," Brabham said. "The Cooperative Program is our avenue for fulfilling the Great Commission."

Brabham learned early in his ministry that people who are unaware of a program will not participate. He knows that periodic education and information through teaching, publicity and promotion are the two things key to stimulating giving—whether it be tithes or offerings.

"Most folks automatically associate the Cooperative Program with foreign missions, some with home missions," said Brabham, "but Parkway tries to emphasize how it funds things near to home—like truck driver ministries, scholarships, new mission churches within our home state."

Periodic stewardship promotion reminds people how important their role is in furthering the Great Commission, Brabham believes. The Cooperative Program allows those who can only give \$1.00 to have the same sense of success and participation as those who would give \$1000, he said.

Few people know better than a church administrator how caught up we can get in the routine, day to day business of the church. "We forget the real business we should be about," Brabham said. "We know we must make the mortgage payment, and pay the utilities, and we put these as unquestionable priorities in our church budgets. What we have done at Parkway is to put our Cooperative Program allocation right up there with the very same priority as those other essentials."

"Sometimes [church leaders] find it difficult to talk about stewardship. We must look beyond the operational costs of our church to the true mission of the church. I think we feel good to know that while our money ensures our electric bill is paid and our building has light, we are also sharing 'The Light of the World' in the darkest parts of Africa, and Mississippi as well." HT

PRAY for the athletes who were reached for Christ during the Summer Olympics in Barcelona, Spain. For the "Reach Out '92" effort an international team of around 100 Christian workers participated. More than 1,500 people attended a meeting on Aug. 4 to hear Carl Lewis give his Christian testimony.

PRAY for the Baptist Mission to Chile. In recent months 16 missionaries have had to leave the field, for varying reasons. Pray for those who remain that they will not be overloaded with work and pray for new recruits to feel called to Chile.

CONTINUE TO PRAY for missions of African who are suffering the results of war and drought. This century's worst drought has wiped out between 50 and 90 percent of the region's cereal crops. Without outside help many will die and in some areas the children are

PRAYERGRAM

Sept. 3-17, 1992

too weak to go to school.

PRAY for the Mississippi River Ministry in its continuing purpose to "commit Southern Baptists and their resources to provide ministries, evangelization and strengthening of existing churches and starting churches in the seven-state region of the lower Mississippi River." The Ministry Convocation was held August 7-8 at the Eudora Baptist Church in Memphis.

PRAY for the Home Mission Board goal that 75 percent of SBC churches be involved in church and community ministry by the year 2000 A.D. Pray that your church may become involved more completely.

Pray for our Baptist colleges and uni-

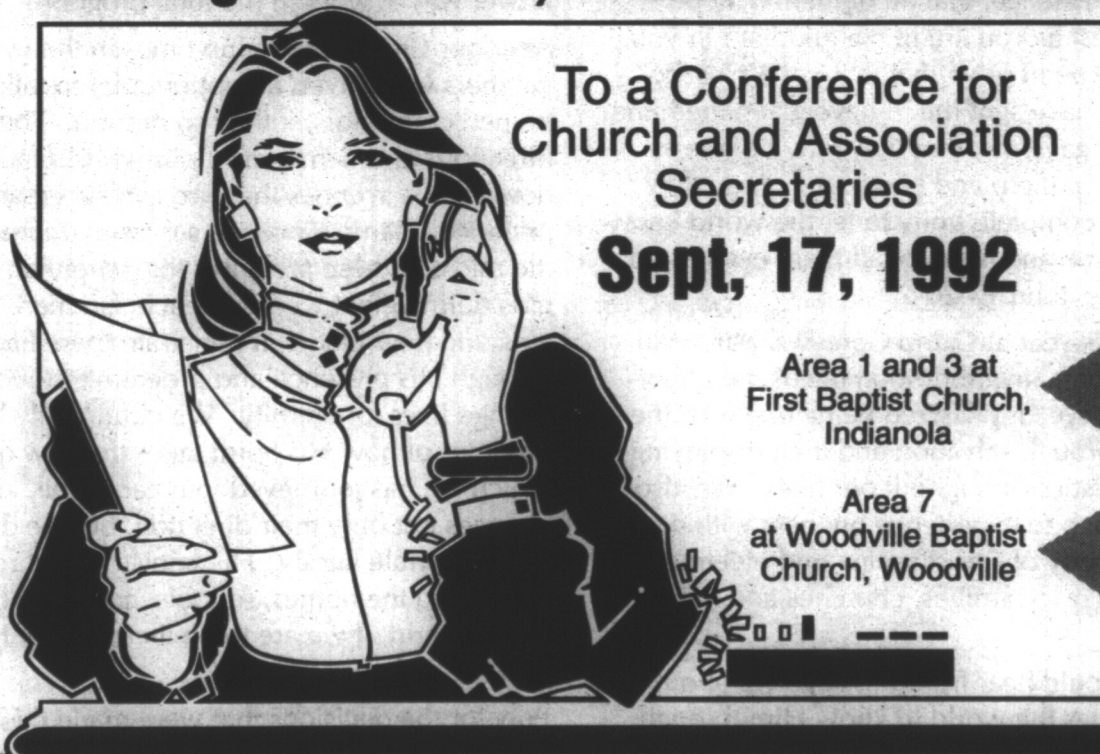
versities, that they may offer academic excellence and at the same time provide a college course conducive to Christian growth.

PRAY for the Mississippi-Zimbabwe Partnership. Because of internal developments in Zimbabwe, and the refusal of the government to grant a work permit for the Powells, it seems best to seek a replacement for them as the on-the-field Coordinator. Pray that such a person can be found.

PRAY with Warren County Baptists in their request to join them in prayer for the Sept. 8 voting on Riverboat Gambling. "We ask people all over our state to join us in praying that this will not receive a positive response."

PRAY for the State Mission Season of Prayer and Margaret Lackey Offering, Sept. 13-16, sponsored by the Mississippi WMU. HT

Calling All Area 1, 3 and 7 Secretaries



To a Conference for
Church and Association
Secretaries

Sept, 17, 1992

Area 1 and 3 at
First Baptist Church,
Indianola

Area 7
at Woodville Baptist
Church, Woodville

Come enjoy fellowship, share ideas, and grow in skill and personal development.

Registration is at 9 a.m. with coffee and doughnuts. "Dutch Treat" lunch in Indianola; "Brown Bag" lunch in Woodville. Conference concludes at 3 p.m.

For further information contact: Ruth Smith, 226-3661, for Area 1 and 3; Liz McGraw, 888-3613, for Area 7 or Dot Smith, 968-3800 ext. 3905, at the Baptist Building.

Sponsored by the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Dept., MBCB, and Mississippi Baptist Secretaries Association

STATE MISSION SEASON OF PRAYER

"Helping to
Bring
Mississippi
to Jesus"

My prayer is not for them alone.

I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. John 17:20-23

Our theme this year at Camp Garaywa was "Will you be the One...Neighborhood needs, neighborhood deeds." We emphasized being one with the Father first, through salvation and then displaying His characteristics throughout our lives. We also challenged each to experience oneness with one another, the body of Christ seeing and meeting needs in their own families, churches and neighborhoods.

Daily, they would hear from missionaries about how God brings the world to know Him through their lives; mission study topics included substance abuse, latchkey children, hungry and homeless people; and Bible study topics such as serving the children, serving the hungry and serving the sick. We incorporated spiritual truths at the conclusion of every activity throughout the day. As you can

Churches around our state are gearing up for the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering Season of Prayer emphasis on September 13-16. Our goal for 1992 is \$660,000. The Woman's Missionary Union mailed an introductory packet of State Mission materials to all Church WMU Directors, all Associational WMU Directors, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board members and WMU Executive Board members in July. It included an order form and the WMU has been sending State Mission materials to churches as they have requested them. This packet included a poster of the State Mission theme and goal, program and a sample envelope.

The State Mission program for 1992 was written by Marjorie Kelly, wife of Dr. Earl Kelly and former missionary to Israel. The program, entitled "Helping to Bring Mississippi to Jesus," contains suggestions for State Mission emphasis in Sunday or Wednesday services for all age groups. The main focus is a playlet called "Scouting Out the Needs" which gives information about the individual State Mission allocations to better inform the church body.

The poster and program cover was designed by Linda Wallace, independent graphic artist from Ridgeland, and former employee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Any church that has not received information concerning the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering Season of Prayer emphasis needs to contact the Woman's Missionary Union, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. 968-3800.

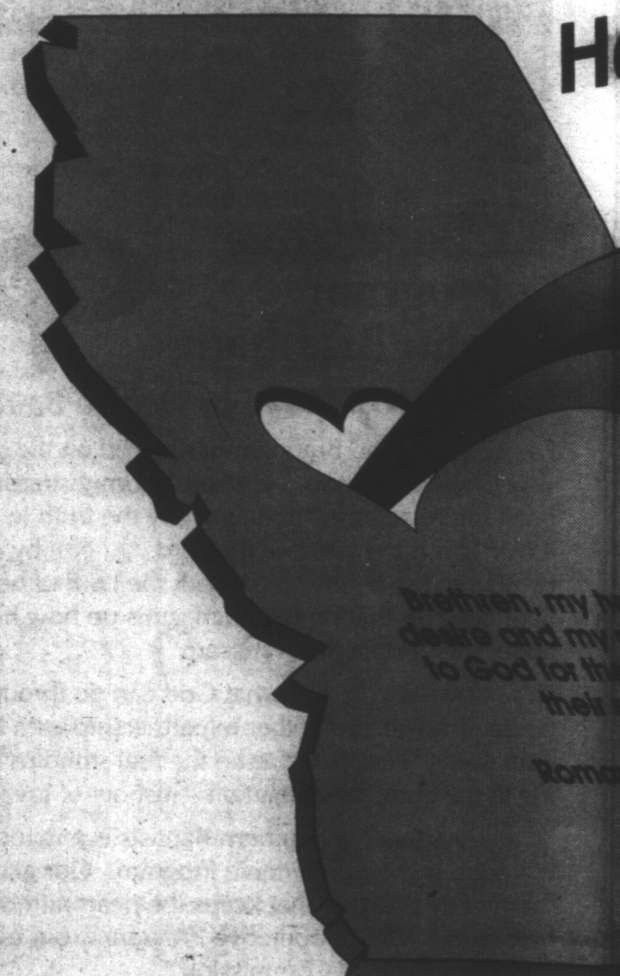
imagine, God's presence was evident and His power was at work in the total program!

After our Creative Worship times in the evenings, campers were given an opportunity to talk to our trained counselors, if they so desired. The many directions and demands of our world sends us down more avenues than we can successfully experience. Camp Garaywa serves as a "time-out" in the midst of these pressures for more than 2,300 girls during eight weeks of each summer. It's amazing how God can penetrate these little hearts through His presence and program to touch and change lives for eternity. We continually hear testimonies of how His Spirit takes the new depth to which He has journeyed into each soul, and changes not only their direction, but the direction of their whole family. His ministry must reach through to the homes, schools, and neighborhood, of our world, if we are to be the one that He calls us to be as believers.

Pray for the decisions that were made this summer during GA Camp at Camp Garaywa. Thank you for your part through State Missions in the spiritual growth of these young girls and their families.

*Helen Price,
GA Summer Camp Director*

State Mission Season



Margaret Lackey
State Goal \$

September 13

SUGGESTED STATE MISSION ALLOCATIONS

NEW MISSIONS	\$165,000
CENTRAL HILLS	\$182,000
CAMP GARAYWA	\$160,000
DISASTER RELIEF	\$ 35,000
SPECIAL MINISTRIES	\$7,000
National Baptists	\$3,500
Choctaw Indians	\$3,500

HOUSE OF GODS

Mission n of Prayer Helping to Bring Mississippi to Jesus

my heart's
and my prayer
for them is for
their salvation.

Romans 10:1 OAB

Lackey
\$660,000

13-16, 1992

MISSION OFFERING GOAL, 1993 ALLOCATIONS:

5,000	PARCHMAN MINISTRIES	\$ 20,000
2,000	JAIL AND PRISON MINISTRIES	\$ 10,000
0,000	CHURCH BLDG/PASTORAL AID	\$ 40,000
5,000	STUDENT WORK, BLACK CAMPUSES	\$ 20,000
7,000	CHURCH PLANTER, HINDS-MADISON	\$ 10,000
5,500	MISSIONS AWARENESS	\$ 11,000
5,500	TOTAL	\$660,000

STATE MISSION OFFERING ALLOCATIONS - 1993

1. NEW MISSIONS - \$165,000 - The Margaret Lackey Offering is used for two major items, site purchase assistance and mobile chapel usage, related to New Missions.

Site purchase assistance was provided to Mount Sinai Baptist Church, Lee Association, Filipino Christian Fellowship, the Iglesia Bautista Mission in the Gulf Coast Association and New Church site on Highway 25 in the Rankin Association during the past year.

Sixteen mobile chapels are used for new work and for churches which are destroyed by fire. Two churches were assisted this past year.

2. CENTRAL HILLS - \$182,000 - Normal operating expenses will be cared for — such as salaries, equipment and utilities. Additionally, the Margaret Lackey Offering will provide resources for upgrading equipment (after 13 years of use) such as the sewage grinder system. Also, there are plans to refurbish areas of the camp center and lodge with paint and repairs.

3. CAMP GARAYWA - \$160,000 - Will help with repairs and improvements on 32 camp buildings and upkeep and additional landscaping of campgrounds. Other items which will benefit are salaries of three full-time staff people, camp office operation expenses, maintenance of equipment, and purchasing of maintenance and housekeeping supplies.

4. DISASTER RELIEF - \$35,000 - During the past 12 months, we had Disaster Response Teams in Brooksville, Meridian, Baton Rouge, and south Florida. Volunteers worked to serve meals and also in clean-up and recovery work. Financial assistance was extended to 7 other associations. Twelve men were sent through Disaster Response to help with food distribution in Project Brotherhood for Russia.

5. NATIONAL BAPTISTS - \$3,500 - Used to assist with leadership training for National Baptist Women in missions work and with special projects.

6. CHOCTAW INDIANS - \$3,500 - Each Indian child who attends Garaywa or Central Hills is provided 1/2 the camp fee from State Mission Offering; additionally, the offering helps make possible a piano program among the Choctaws. Piano lessons are taught to students who will then serve in the music ministry of our Choctaw churches. The students share in the cost of their lessons. Five of the twelve churches in New Choctaw Association have church pianists who were taught in this program. Also, two of the young women

who have had piano lessons are now teaching children themselves.

7. CHURCH BUILDING AID/PASTORAL AID - \$40,000 - In 1992 ten churches have received building aid and nine pastors are receiving pastoral aid each month.

8. STUDENT WORK/BLACK CAMPUSES - \$20,000 - Presently there is Baptist student work on seven historically black campuses; the future goal is for 15 campuses to be involved. There are two part-time workers serving as assistant BSU directors. Student Work leaders in the state are hoping to have more of the traditionally white colleges and universities where there is growth potential among black students to have black leaders.

9. CHURCH PLANTER - \$10,000 - In 1992, Dottie Williamson completed her work as Church Planter in Pearl River Association after Rolling Hills Baptist Church became established and the mobile chapel was replaced by a permanent church building. This year Dottie is working with Hinds-Madison Association as Church Planter through multi-family housing ministries. Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering will enable her to use this ministry to start new churches in the Jackson area.

10. PARCHMAN MINISTRY - \$20,000 - Missionaries Charles and Hazel Jones are working with employees of the state penitentiary and their families. Margaret Lackey Offering makes possible children's programs, such as Big A Club, Vacation Bible School and special programs at holiday times, such as Christmas and Easter. Youth have weekly Bible studies and special activities, such as musicals, video presentations dealing with teen issues, and other special events. There are seminars presented for adults. Additionally, the offering assists with salaries for three staff people, plus building maintenance and insurance, and utilities, grounds and lawn care, bus and van insurance, upkeep and operational expenses, office supplies and materials, and refreshments for children and youth and special events.

11. PRISON MINISTRY - \$10,000 - This is a new State Mission Offering allocation. These funds will make possible the development of strategies and materials for church members to be trained and encouraged to evangelize and minister among those who are or have been incarcerated in a local jail and/or correctional facility, their families, and those who work with prison people.

12. MISSIONS AWARENESS - \$11,000 - This is the name given to the preparation, printing, and mailing of materials. The updated video, MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS—RESPONDING, which is being made available to every church in the Mississippi Baptist Convention, was made possible because of this allocation. Posters, offering envelopes, and other materials also are provided through this allocation.

1992 Youth Ministers conference

**October 26-28
Lake Tiak O'Khata
Louisville, Miss.**

- youth ministry basics
- youth ministry overview

Preschool child-care is available. Notify the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Dept. of the name and age of the child you plan to bring when you pre-register.

**begins 1:30 p.m. Monday
concludes 10:00 a.m. Wednesday**



Sue Barksdale



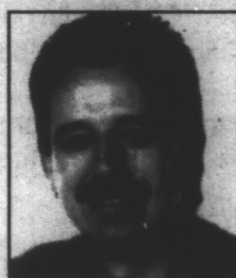
Bill Jones



Valarie Hardy



Ryan Whitley



Lamar Slay

highlights

DEVOTIONALS—Ryan Whitley, pastor, FBC, Cleveland

MUSIC—Mike Harland, (not pictured) minister of music, Crossgates Baptist Church, Brandon

SESSIONS FOR WIVES—Sue Barksdale, pastor's wife, FBC, Carthage

GENERAL SESSIONS—with Lamar Slay, youth conference leader, Sagemont Baptist Church, Houston, Tex.; Bill Jones, head of Youth Ministries Dept., Columbia Bible College and Seminary, Columbia, S.C.; Valerie Hardy, coordinator of home missions youth volunteer programs, Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Ga.

finances

Lodging and meals are the only charge. Payment is to be made to Lake Tiak O'Khata. All prices include tax and gratuity and are per person: Two nights lodging and five meals: 1 per room—\$106.70; 2 per room—\$77.84; 3 per room—\$63.90; 4 per room—\$56.44. Meals only: Breakfast—\$5.25; Lunch—\$6.65; Dinner—\$7.50

reservations

Call Lake Tiak o'Khata at 773-7853. It is necessary to guarantee accommodations with a credit card or a \$45 deposit.

registration

Complete this form and return to Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Dept., P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 **no later than October 16, 1992.**

Registration Form

Youth Ministers Conference, October 26-28, 1992
Lake Tiak O'Khata

Name _____ Position _____
Spouse's first name, if attending _____
Office address _____ City _____ Zip _____
Office Phone _____ Home Phone _____
Church _____ Association _____

☐ I have made reservations at Lake Tiak O'Khata

☐ I will not need a room but will plan to eat the following meals:

- ☐ Monday Dinner ☐ Tuesday Breakfast ☐ Tuesday Lunch
☐ Tuesday Dinner ☐ Wednesday Breakfast

*attach names and ages of
children you plan to bring*

For Adults in Discipleship Training

Walk where Jesus walked...step by step (New Item) Christians strive to walk as Jesus did (1 John 2:6). Following His pattern requires that we know His life and teachings, as portrayed in the inspired words of the New Testament.

Step by Step Through the New Testament illuminates the New Testament account of Jesus and the struggles and victories of the early church. The 13-session LIFE course surveys the New Testament, providing a framework for understanding and interpreting it. The course also leads believers to apply the timeless truths of the New Testament to a Christian life-style.

Resources include:

- Step by Step Through the New Testament member's book (7609-12)
- Step by Step Through the New Testament leader's guide (7610-12)

...

Does your family need a checkup? Physical health is important in a family, but what about spiritual health and emotional health? These elements are also essential for strong, growing family relationships.

Christian Family Growing Stronger is an Equipping Center module that assists families in developing healthy family relationships. This six-session study emphasizes a strong commitment to family life, an environment of affirmation and encouragement, open and effective communication, quality time together, facing crises together, and spiritual discipleship.

These materials are available from a Baptist Book Store or from the Customer Service Center, 127 Ninth Avenue, North, Nashville, TN 37234; 1-800-458-2772. **HT**

Small Church Leadership Conference

First Baptist Church, Newton
September 19, 1992
8:30 a.m. - 12 noon

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The new teaching series will be taught:

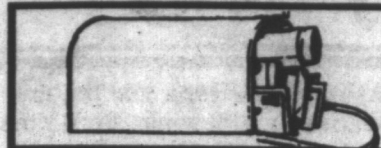
Teaching Preschoolers the Bible
Nancy BullockJackson
Teaching Children the Bible
Gay Pounders.....Laurel
Teaching Youth the Bible
Sean Keith.....MBCB
Teaching Adults the Bible
Larry Salter.....MBCB
Teaching People the Bible (General Officers)
Keith WilkinsonMBCB

These leaders are designing their conference for YOU!

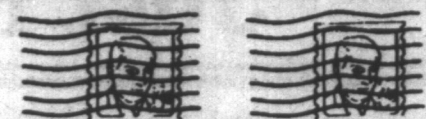
Books may be purchased at the conference for \$4.50

**BREAK
THROUGH**

HOUSE OF GOD



Letters to the editor



To those involved

Editor:

I've read some articles that different people have written concerning the abortion issue. I appreciate these people standing up for the rights of unborn children. But I want to address some people who can make a difference if they only will.

How about you, expectant mother? Are you willing to take the life of your unborn baby simply because you don't want it? Why not let a couple that wants a baby, but can't have one, adopt it? You won't have to look very far to find a couple in that situation.

What about you, abortion clinic doctor? Are you willing to snuff out the life of a defenseless baby for a sum of money? How much of a price would you put on your life?

How about you, lawmakers? Are you willing to sit down and do nothing while the legal mass murder of innocent babies happens every day? Laws could be instated to protect the lives of these unborn children.

How about you, the sexually active woman? Are you willing to take on the responsibility of raising children? Are you willing to go through the emotional pain of giving a child up for adoption?

How about you, the sexually active man? Are you willing to let the woman take all the heat? It's your choice too. Would you help raise a child? After all, the responsibility is just as much yours as it is hers. Help stop the killing.

Do you want to face a holy, just, and righteous God to be judged with the blood of an innocent baby on your hands? I wouldn't. But the choice is yours. What will you do?

Bob Leach
Blue Springs

Words of warning

Editor:

A few years ago my home church was a dynamic, loving, caring, and very mission/evangelism conscious body of believers. As a young Bible student, I often wondered what means Satan would use to attack such a wonderful group of people, since he is in the deceiving business.

If he could attack our old traditions by promising to show us a "new thing" through "signs and wonders" and a special "word" from God, then we would be lifted up to a spiritual plateau to which only a "remnant" of the body would be able to ascend.

I would like to be able to report to you that Satan's plan failed. Unfortunately, our church and many others like it are succumbing to his wiles. Subtly, over a period of several years, he has carefully reduced once-thriving churches into "ash heaps" of controversy, intimidation, and spiritual arrogance. Sound biblical study has given way to dreams, visions, "words of knowledge," and an occasional "tongue."

I am writing to warn those who would be caught up in such movements. I am firmly convinced that rather than show us a "new thing," God would rather have us know more clearly those things of old which he gave to the prophets and the apostles. This can only be done through careful biblical exegesis and sound biblical teaching and preaching.

Wilbur Godsey
Mt. Pleasant

Regarding Engell

Editor:

Chaplain (Colonel) Arthur T. Engell, a resident of Air Force Village II, passed away Aug. 18. He was a graduate of Mississippi College and Southern Seminary in Louisville, with honors. He was a former resident of Marion and was licensed by Marion Church at the age of 16 where he served as pastor for three years. He was later ordained by the Clinton Church, serving churches in Goodman, Slaughter, and Money.

He served as an Air Force chaplain for 28 years, receiving four awards for meritorious service, the Bronze Star, and the Legion of Merit, among other awards. After retiring from the service, Engell served more than 11 more years as pastor of Center Ridge Church in Kemper County. His years of ministry totalled 55 1/2. He is survived by his wife Eloise Lackey Engell, San Antonio, Texas, and a daughter, Gloria Faye Engell, Denver, Colo.

A memorial service was held for Engell at First Church, Marion, and in the High Flight Chapel, San Antonio, Aug. 21. Another memorial service was held at Center Ridge Church, Kemper County.

Walter Blackman, pastor
First Church, Marion

Disagrees with Thomas

Editor:

I read with interest the letter from Oliver Thomas regarding the approval of the Baptist Joint Committee of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (H. R. 2797/S. 2969). I have a question for Mr. Thomas: Since when did the illustrious Ted Kennedy, who introduced the bill, become the "Friend of Religion?" Kennedy, who generally stands for every idea repugnant to Christians, introduced this bill one day after he pushed the Freedom of Choice Act out of the Labor and Human Resources Committee, which he chairs.

"What's the connection?" you ask. Simply put, the ACLU president has admitted during testimony for the bill that this bill would be used as a legal basis for pro-abortion lawsuits. This means that, if the RFRA is enacted, pro-abortion attorneys could successfully use the bill to attack the types of abortion regulations that the Supreme Court upheld in the

Casey decision this year. For example, informed consent, 24-hour waiting periods, and other restrictions permissible under the "undue burden test" would be impermissible under the "compelling governmental interest" to protect any and all conduct claimed to be motivated by religious belief.

Mrs. Ember Lennep
Pascagoula

Expression of thanks

Editor:

I would like to express appreciation to some of our fellow Baptists in Mississippi who have come over to help us at the Mission of Hope, a Bible-centered Christian rehabilitation program for men with alcohol and drug problems.

A group of more than 20 persons from the West Point-Clay County Baptist Association arrived at our campus in West Mobile County on Aug. 7 and when they departed a week later, a 32' X 112' occupational therapy building had been erected.

This group, led by Lee Roy Atkins, association Brotherhood director, was from the West End, Cedar Bluff, Faith, and Pheba Baptist Churches, and included two pastors and three ladies who could drive nails and carry lumber like all the rest.

Only eternity will reveal what this effort means to the kingdom of God.

On behalf of the board of directors, I am pleased to say we are grateful to those who have answered the Macedonian Call.

Lambert C. Mims
President, board of directors
Mission of Hope
Mobile, Ala.

Surrender to Satan?

Editor:

After reading the article "Christian nation" sounds good but not true, experts say," by Mark Wingfield (recent issue of the Baptist Record), I'm beginning to wonder if "our" so-called Baptist leadership would not rather we just surrender the world to Satan's crowd and live in a secular society without God's Word.

"America was not founded as a Christian nation," said Richard Land, executive director of the Christian Life Commission. Well — John Jay, first Chief Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court, said this: "Providence has given our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers."

And, what about the Trinity decision of the U. S. Supreme Court (1892) wherein they said America is a Christian nation?

According to the article, James Dunn (Baptist Joint Committee) "puts less credence on claims that

America's founders were devout Christians. The majority were not what modern Baptists would consider 'traditional Christians' nor were they members of any church."

The part about them not being members of any church is simply not true, according to M. E. Bradford's book, *A Worthy Company* (Brief lives of the framers of the United States Constitution). It says: "... with no more than five exceptions (and perhaps no more than three), they were orthodox members of one of the established communions; approximately 29 Anglicans, 16-18 Calvinists, two Methodists, two Lutherans, two Roman Catholics, one lapsed Quaker and sometimes Anglican, and one open Deist — Dr. Franklin, who attended every kind of Christian worship, called for public prayer, and contributed to all denominations."

And, I thank God for our founding fathers, too.

Bob Wells
Hazlehurst

Alternative to RFRA

Editor:

I'm writing because I'm concerned that my brothers and sisters in Christ may be unaware that an evil side of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (H. R. 2797) exists — death. Passage of the RFRA would mean that each year an untold number of pre-borns would be terminated by abortion; therefore, automatically ending their free exercise rights. It also means that current state laws restricting abortion would be ren-

dered useless. In the House, practically all pro-life support for H. R. 2797 (in its current form) has been withdrawn due to abortion-related concerns. Among those withdrawing their support: Congressman Henry Hyde, Christian Action Council, Concerned Women For America, Family Research Council, and Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Others opposing H. R. 2797 as is: U. S. Catholic Conference, Americans United for Life, the Rutherford Institute, and National Right to Life.

Among those supporting the RFRA as is: Senator Ted Kennedy, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights, Congressman Steve Solarz of New York, who has a long pro-abortion record, and the National Association of Evangelicals. Strange bedfellows, huh? In testimony in support of the RFRA, the president of the ACLU admitted that the bill would be used as a legal basis for pro-abortion lawsuits.

For all of us who would like an "informed alternative," Congressman Henry Hyde is co-sponsoring the Religious Freedom Act, H. R. 4040, authored by Congressman Chris Smith (R-NJ), the co-chairman of the Congressional Pro-Life Caucus. H. R. 4040 is similar to the RFRA in most respects, but it contains several exceptions, including an explicit exemption for laws that restrict abortion. The effect of this exemption is not to directly restrict abortions, but merely to prevent the RFRA itself from being used to invalidate laws that limit abortion.

Glynis Madison
Pascagoula

Americans United hails House vote against parochial school aid

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Two congressional votes rejecting tax aid for parochial and other private schools protect religious freedom and public education, according to Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

On Aug. 12 the House of Representatives overwhelmingly voted down two amendments to the Neighborhood Schools Improvement Act that would have allowed the use of tax revenues to pay for "choice" programs that include religious and other private schools.

The first amendment, offered by Rep. Richard K. Armey (R-Texas), would have required local districts to set aside one-quarter of the bill's funds — an estimated \$211 million — for choice plans that include private schools. It was defeated 328-80.

A second amendment, proposed by Rep. William F. Goodling (R-Pa.), would have permitted local school districts to use some of their money for private school choice, provided such plans did not violate state constitutional provisions. It failed on a 267-140

vote.

The House later passed the bill, free from parochial school aid provisions, by a 279-124 vote. It now goes before a House-Senate conference committee, which will attempt to reconcile differences between it and a similar education bill passed by the Senate earlier this year.

Americans United Acting Executive Director Rudolph A. Bush hailed the votes as significant victories for separation of church and state.

"Once again the House has soundly rejected misguided proposals to force Americans to support sectarian education," Bush said. "Private religious schools exist to teach religion. They must be supported by the voluntary contributions of those who believe in them, not forced 'donations' from taxpayers."

"Ultimately," he added, "government support would also undermine the integrity and independence of the very religious schools that vouchers are intended to help. Public funds should be limited to public schools."

Just for the Record



Margaret Graham (center in photo at left), Vacation Bible School director of Ridglea Heights Church, Escatawpa, is shown presenting a check for \$309.47 to Bob Storie, right, director of ministries, Jackson Association. The money was given to the Seamen's Center ministry, in keeping with the VBS theme, "Seaside with the Savior." Enrollment in VBS was 218; 31 decisions and 16 baptisms resulted. Glenn Graham, pastor of Ridglea Heights, is shown at left.

Holly Grove Church, Braxton, will hold a dedication service for its new building, Sept. 13, 2 p.m. A reception will follow. Roger Lee is pastor.

The American Guild of Organists, Jackson Chapter, will present James Pethel in recital Sept. 18, 7:30 p.m. at Broadmoor Church, Jackson. There is no admission fee. Pethel is associate professor of music, and composer in residence at Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn. He is a well-known recitalist and has served as organist or minister of music at Brook Hollow Church, Nashville; First Church, Norristown, Tenn.; First Church, LaFayette, Tenn.; and Emmanuel Church, Gainesville, Ga.

Center Ridge Church, Yazoo City, began its month-long "Back to God, Back to Church" revival Sept. 6. Speaker for the revival will be Everette Martin, pastor of Gore Springs Church, Grenada County. Music will be led by Joey Ward of Clinton. Bryan Able is pastor.

Glendale Church, Leland, held its Vacation Bible School July 27-31. Ninety-one enrolled with an average of 74 for the week; two professions of faith were made. Donald I. Pouns is pastor.

South McComb Church, McComb, hosted the Pike County Associational GAs' "Christmas in August," Aug. 22 with 52 girls and 10 leaders in attendance. Steve and Kaye Griffin presented slides on their recent trip to Russia, and Griffin brought a devotion on the "True Meaning of Christmas." Eight churches were represented. Gifts were sent to Harold Heiney, home missionary in South Dakota. Glen Williams is director of missions, Pike Association.

The Danny Sparks Memorial Ministers Golf Tournament will be held in Booneville, Sept. 14, 9 a.m. Contact Milton Koon at 841-1182.

Union Church marks 150th

Union Church, Picayune, will celebrate its 150th anniversary Sept. 18-20. Services will be held Friday, 6:30 p.m., Saturday, 6:30 p.m., and Sunday, 8:30, 11 a.m., and 7 p.m. Dinner on the grounds will be served at noon, Sunday.

Five former pastors will take part in the celebration, including ministers of music, youth, and educational ministers.



The Triple L Club of First Church, Amory, is pictured rolling bandages that were sent to missionary doctor Martha Hagood at the hospital in Eku, Nigeria.



The youth group of First Church, Richton, recently participated in a mission trip to Shannon. They conducted Backyard Bible Clubs and music ministries. During the week, there were 12 professions of faith. Eddie White is minister of music and youth.

CLASSIFIED ADS

RATE: 50 cents per word, \$5 minimum. Cash with order except on contract advertising. Include name, address, zip code, and phone number in word count. No blind ads.

USED OAK PEWS: Medium oak stain, green upholstery 27 12' long — Pulpit communion table, 3 chairs, \$3,500. 1-800-624-9627.

FOR SALE: 20 12' pews. Solid oak with pads, \$150 each. 1-323-4548.

WANTED: Bi-vocational youth /children director. Send information to P. O. Box 7496, Nikiski, AK 99635, Attn: Pastor Bill Branch.

FAST GROWING CHURCH in the Chicago suburbs is actively

seeking an aggressive self-starter with strong supervisory skills that can enhance and develop strategic plans for our growing Bible Study and Outreach Ministries. This full-time Minister of Education position offers an excellent salary package and benefits. All inquiries should be sent to Rick Ezell, Naperville Baptist Church, 29W771 79th Street, Naperville, IL 60564.

FOR SALE: Used church pews. Oak, cushioned. Call 1-800-654-1294.

Missionary News

Virgil and Amy Cooper, missionaries to Korea, are in the States (address: Missionary Learning Center, Rt. 1, Rockville, Va. 23146). He was born in Water Valley, and also lived in Vicksburg.

Philip and Laura Dunaway, missionaries to Brazil, are on the field (address: Caixa Postal 7087, 71.619 Brasilia, DF, Brazil). He was born in Jackson and considers Hattiesburg his hometown. She is the former Laura Lindley of Meridian.

James and Dorothy Gilbert have retired from active missionary service. They served in Ecuador until their transfer to Panama in 1981. He was born in White Bluff. The former Dorothy Smith lived in several Mississippi towns. They may be addressed at 204 Corinth Dr., Bay St. Louis, MS 39520.

Byron and Dora Harbin, missionaries to Brazil, are on the field (address: Caixa Postal 18345, 044699, Sao Paulo, SP, Brazil). She is the former Dora Dunkley of McLaurin.

Asbury and Hope Martin, missionaries to Argentina, are on the field (address: Casilla de Correo 5, 8400 San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina). He considers Cleveland his hometown. She is the former Hope Clements of Corinth.

Stanley and Iva May, missionaries to Zimbabwe, are in the States (address: 2033 Kirby Pkwy., Memphis, TN). She is the former Iva Gryner of Hollandale.

Hugh and Brenda Provost, Baptist representatives to Lebanon, are living in Cyprus (address: P. O. Box 835, Larnaca, Cyprus). He lived in Belzoni.

Kevin and Pam Shearer, missionaries to Peru, are in the States (address: P. O. Box 1799, Prentiss, MS 39474). He was born in Ellisville and considers Laurel his hometown. She is the former Pamela Hill of Laurel.

Harold and Susan Thornton, missionaries to Costa Rica, are in the States (address: 4613 Palm St., Baton Rouge, LA 70808). He was born in Tylertown.

Homecomings

Friendship East, Charleston: Sept. 13; lunch following morning worship; gospel singing, "Praise," 1:30 p.m.; Odie Sherman, guest speaker; J. G. Thomas, pastor.

Holly Bluff, Yazoo City: 75th anniversary, Sept. 13; Worship, 10:45 a.m.; covered dish meal, noon; afternoon service, 1:30 p.m.; I. L. Hill, former pastor, guest

speaker; R. L. & Beth Sigrest, music.

Alexander Memorial, Hollandale: Sept. 13; Discipleship Training, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish lunch, noon; afternoon concert, 1:30; James Burrell, guest speaker; John & Lisa McDaniel, music; John H. Tucker, pastor.

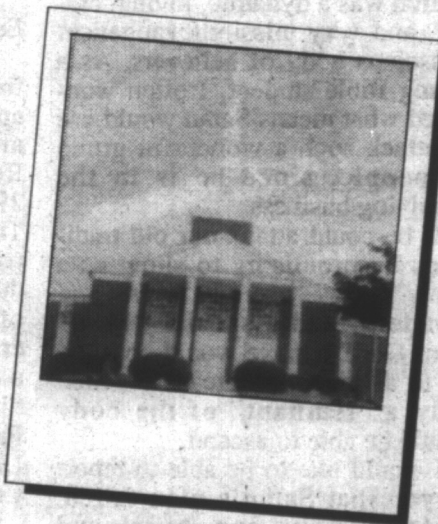
It's not just another building. It's your church.

A church has different requirements than most other buildings an insurance company covers. It represents the shared commitment and sacrifice of many people... it's an invaluable emotional investment.

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The Specialist

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GA Day scheduled for Central Hills, Sept. 26

Members and leaders of Girls in Action (GAs) in Mississippi are invited to attend GA Day at Central Hills Retreat in Kosciusko, Saturday, Sept. 26, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Missionary Peggy Wallace from Peru will be a speaker for this event. Also featured will be puppets, games, music, and surprises.

Cost for the day will be \$3,

which will include drinks. Each person will need to bring a sack lunch.

Make reservations by mailing \$3 per person attending to WMU Office, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Maximum attendance for this event is 500, so reservations should be sent in immediately.

Staff changes

Calvary Church, Oak Grove Community, Hattiesburg, has called John H. Voss as pastor, effective Sept. 1. The Purvis native previously served Calvary Church, Canton and Good Hope Church, Purvis. He is a graduate of University of Mississippi and its law school, and New Orleans Seminary.

Griffith Memorial Church, Jackson, has called M. Anthony Turner as minister of music and education. The Greenville, Ala. native is a graduate of Southwestern Seminary and Samford University, and is married to the former Judy Davis of Jackson. He previously served churches in Texas and Alabama.



Turner

James David Caves recently resigned as interim pastor of Wanilla Church, Lawrence Association, to accept the call as pastor

of Flat Top Unity Church, Pearl River Association. Caves is the former pastor of Bethany Church, Sunflower Association. He received his education at Copiah-Lincoln Community College and Delta State University, and is enrolled at New Orleans Seminary.

John L. Perkins has accepted the position as director of missions, Northwest Association, effective Sept. 1. He was formerly a foreign missionary serving in France. The Montgomery, Ala., native is married to the former Sarah Grant of Jackson. He received his education at Pensacola, Fla., Junior College, Mississippi College, Southern Seminary, and the University of Bordeaux, France. He has served churches in Hernando, Jackson, and Byram.

New Providence celebrates 150th anniversary

New Providence Church, Derma, will celebrate its 150th anniversary Sept. 13. Services will begin at 10 a.m. An "Old Timey" lunch will be served at noon. Afternoon services will begin at 1 p.m.

Special recognition will be given to longtime members and former pastors.

Special events will include music, and reading of the church history.

J. T. Busby is pastor.

PEWS

NEW & USED (800) 366-1716

Overholtzer

Thursday, September 10, 1992

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 2

Names in the News



Pictured at left are the "Matrons of Mantee." They are, from left to right: front row, Ruby Scott, Corrine Parker, Margurette Easterwood, and Maggie Lee Skelton; back row, Martha Davis, Pearl Walker, Thelma George, Ida Lou Gullette, Lillie Neal, and Lucille Townsend. Not pictured are Lois Carradine, Ruby King, and Verna Walker. Together, these women represent over 1,000 years of service to their community and church. They are members of the Fidelis Sunday School class at Mantee Church. Currently, they are involved in a telephone ministry which contacts absent Sunday School members.

North Winona Church honored Pastor and Mrs. Frank Bishop on their 10th anniversary of service to the congregation, June 14. A church-wide fellowship was held, and a love offering presented to the couple.



J. Wayne Baggett will be honored at a celebration after ten years of service by the First Church, Quitman, Sept. 13, at 7 p.m. in the church's fellowship hall.

Baggett is a native of Nettleton. He is married to the former Peggy Howell of Aberdeen. He is a graduate of Itawamba Junior College, Mississippi State University, University of Mississippi, and New Orleans Seminary.



Baggett

First Church, Water Valley, will honor its pastor, Guy Reedy, with a reception in the fellowship hall, 4-6 p.m. on Sept. 27. Sunday School will begin at 9:30 a.m.; worship, at 10:30.

AUTHORS WANTED BY NEW YORK PUBLISHER

Leading subsidy book publisher seeks manuscripts of all types: fiction, non-fiction, poetry, scholarly and juvenile works, etc. New authors welcomed. Send for free, illustrated 32-page brochure H-101 Vantage Press, 516 W. 34 St., New York, N.Y. 10001

LEE COUNTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATIONAL WORKSHOP

"Evangelism and Church Growth through Sunday School"

September 19, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
First Baptist Church, Tupelo
Lunch - \$2.00

Audience: Pastors/Staff/Sunday School Leaders
Leader: Charles Lowery, Director
Center of Evangelism and Church Growth
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Call 1-566-1700 for reservations



Revival Dates

Brewer, Richton: Sept. 13-18; Henry Freeman, First Church of Runnelstown, evangelist; Mark Taylor, Ellisville, professor at Jones County Junior College, music; Sunday, 10:50 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Michael R. McLendon, pastor.

First, McLaurin, Hattiesburg: Sept. 13-17; Bruce Gill, Natalbany, La., evangelist; Boyd Tweedy, Hattiesburg, music; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Paul Sanders, pastor.

Griffith Memorial, Jackson: Sept. 13-16; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jim Futral, Jackson, evangelist; Anthony Turner, Jackson, music; Bruce Cappleman, pastor.

Sidon (Leflore): Sept. 13-16; Sunday, 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Laney Haley, pastor, Leflore Church, Leflore, evangelist; Gary and Linda Lewis, Mount Olive Church, Carroll County, music.

Rawls Springs, Hattiesburg: 109th anniversary homecoming; Sept. 13-16; Bryant Barnes, Mon-

roe, La., evangelist; Benjamin Harlan, New Orleans Seminary, music; Scott Shaver, pastor.

North Winona, Winona: Sept. 13-16; senior adult revival; L. Gordon Sansing, retired, evangelist; Sunday, Senior Adult Day on Grandparents Day; Frank Bishop, pastor.

Union Hall, Brookhaven: Sept. 13-16; Leroy J. Brewer, New Zion, Crystal Springs, evangelist; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 6:45 p.m., singing, and 7 p.m. worship; Tim Weisheim, pastor.

Harlands Creek, Coxburg (Holmes): Sept. 18-20; Fri. & Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, homecoming; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds, noon; Afternoon music with Phil Dixon, 1:30; no night services; Jack Glaze, New Orleans Seminary, evangelist; Roger Richardson, pastor.

Bunker Hill, Columbia: Sept. 13-16; prayer revival; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Rolphe Dorsey, Louisville, Ky., evangelist; Jim Ray, pastor.

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There's No Place Like It!

Thursday, September 10, 1992

First Church, Southaven, vols know victory in Mexico missions

By T.H. Walker

"Victory in Victoria" was more than just a slogan for the 37-member team from First Church, Southaven, during their Aug. 1-8 mission trip to Victoria, Mexico, which is about 200 miles southwest of Brownsville, Texas.

Led by chairman of deacons Sam Word, pastor Edsel Bone, associate pastor Steve Albonetti, and assisting pastor Steve Sullivan, the team conducted two complete Vacation Bible School (VBS) sessions in the mornings, two complete Bible clubs in the evenings, evening revival services in two other churches, and visits to a prison.

In addition, a special revival team conducted services using a Spanish language film entitled, "Jesus Christ." This team carried its own generator to show the film where there was no electricity.

While in Victoria, the team stayed at the home of Dr. Mendez, a Christian physician concerned about the spiritual welfare of the people of Victoria. Dr. Mendez's home is in a large building where he had planned to establish an orphanage. He makes his home available for the furtherance of the Gospel.

There was a village a few miles away in the mountains that one of the pastors knew about, but to get to the village we had to drive up and over the mountains, or "into" the mountains, as it turned out.

Permission was sought from the village chief to show the film, but the chief was not home and his brother hesitated to give permission. During the 45-minute conversation with the chief's brother, the screen, projector, and generator were set up and tested.

People saw what was happening and gathered around as it began to get dark. The permission-seekers returned just about the time the others started showing the film. About 10 minutes into the film, the chief arrived, agreed to let the showing continue, and even stayed to watch it.

The entire village professed an acceptance of Christ; there were few dry eyes when the team departed.

VBS sessions were held each morning for preschool through adult ages at Bethel Church and at a mission of Good Shepherd Church. At night, the revival teams held services at Bethel and the Good Shepherd Mission, while the VBS teams conducted Bible clubs at a park in Libertal, an underprivileged area.

After the Bible clubs on Wednesday, the film was shown and many professions were made, though many also walked off during the invitation. On Thursday night, the movie was again shown in the same area of town, this time at a soccer field. It drew a fairly decent crowd and there were several professions.

A total of 325 professions of faith were made during the trip. The team considers that Christ did, indeed, bring "Victory in Victoria."

Walker is a layman at First Church, Southaven.



Ripening oranges surround Judy Bone (fourth from left) of Southaven and her hungry students as they take a refreshment break during an outdoor Vacation Bible School session, held under the cool shade of an orange grove at Good Shepherd Mission in Victoria, Mexico.

MIFA mystery solved for aspiring musicians

Has anyone living in Jackson ever heard of MIFA? Have you ever seen one? Touched one? Listened to one? Probably not.

MIFA stands for Music Institute of Fine Arts, a new concept in music education beginning this month at Alta Woods Church on Colonial Drive in Jackson.

MIFA is the brainchild of Bob Jones, Alta Woods minister of music, who feels that providing quality musical leadership is an important arm of the music ministry that can reach out to the church family and the community.

"A school of fine arts study may well fill a need for musicians of tomorrow. It is designed to be financially self-sufficient," Jones said.

Classes offered include private lessons in piano and violin, and class instruction in voice/basic

music reading.

Qualified, committed Christian teachers with music degrees in their specialties will comprise the faculty. Joe Elliott, a graduate student at Mississippi College, will teach voice. Margaret Plucker, violinist with the Mississippi Symphony, holds a music degree from DePaul University and will teach violin. Janette Sudderth, who holds both bachelor and master degrees in music, will teach piano.

The potential of such a concept knows no boundaries. MIFA could offer courses in guitar and all orchestral instruments, if enough interest develops.

What is MIFA? An opportunity for children and adults to expand their musical horizons in a Christian atmosphere. For more information, contact the Alta Woods Church office at (601) 372-8651.



"Victory in Victoria" team members from First Church, Southaven.

52 state Baptists fulfill covenant with Alaska

By Olyn F. Roberts

Of the approximately 218 people who have gone with me on mission construction trips to Alaska since 1987, the trip to Alaska this summer tops them all.

The success of any construction trip begins with a good foreman. Ira Alley from Bruce has been the foreman every year; he pastored in Alaska 26 years. Since 1987, we have worked together on 26 different churches, plus the state convention office.

Fifty-two of us arrived in Juneau on July 6. Ira had arrived earlier, and had made our room assignments at Glacier Valley Baptist Church. It was a thrill seeing doctors, lawyers, college professors, school teachers, businessmen, preachers, factory workers, and others from all walks of life willing to leave the comforts of home to help with the building needs of Alaska.

After working one day in Juneau, 16 of us left Auke Bay for Ketchikan. At the First Baptist Church in Ketchikan, we framed and hung doors; framed windows; hung four ceiling fans; painted some rooms; tore off old wooden gutters and put up new metal gutters; and did some electrical work.

On Friday we went by fishing boats to Orton Ranch Youth Camp where we built two bridges; repaired the generator; hung and framed doors and windows; did

plumbing; painted and built a pantry in the kitchen; built closets and shelves; and did back hoe excavation. Four women on the team did all the cooking for 56 people.

Estimated savings in labor costs at Ketchikan-Orton ranch were about \$22,000.

At Glacier Valley in Juneau, we put shingles on the church building and parsonage; built a covered walkway between the church and school; put a ceiling on the porch; installed a shower and other plumbing donated by our group, and a bath vanity; replaced cabinets and walls in the kitchen; installed a security light on the church building; and changed doors.

At First Church in Juneau, the group installed steps and a stairway leading from the church to the parsonage; installed a new landing and steps at the back of the church; put up new handrails; and painted the front entrance to the church.

Mike Proctor, pastor of Glacier Valley Church, said \$35,000 was saved in labor costs. Forty-one children were enrolled in Backyard Bible Clubs; 93 prospects discovered; and 1,020 Bibles were distributed.

Fifteen new churches are needed in Alaska now. If you are interested in going next year, contact Olyn Roberts at (601) 773-5670 or write Route 1, Box 156-A., Louisville, MS 39339.

Roberts is pastor, Blythe Creek Church, Louisville.

Allen O. Webb, 73, dies Sept. 5

Allen O. Webb, 73, died of cancer Sept. 5 in Pascagoula. He was formerly pastor of Daniel Memorial Church, Jackson, and director of missions for the Jackson County Baptist Association from 1979-1983.

Services were held Sept. 8 at First Church, Pascagoula. He is survived by his wife, Leila Mae and three children: Jim and Ron Webb, and Ann Bridges.

Mother of Record staff member dies

Mildred Dickens, mother of Teresa Dickens, staff member of the Baptist Record, died Sept. 7 at Gulfport Memorial Hospital.

Funeral services were held 10:30 a.m. Sept. 9 at Saucier Missionary Baptist Church, with burial in Saucier Cemetery.

She is survived by her husband, William, and four children.

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If your church helped, or continues to help, victims of Hurricane Andrew, we'd like to know about it. Please send a note with pertinent details to Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

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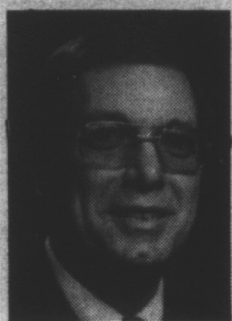
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Life and Work

Prepared to witness



By Milton Burd
1 Peter 3:8-18

In last week's lesson, we discussed building a foundation for witnessing. That foundation is a personal salvation experience with Jesus Christ. The lesson for this week builds on that foundation. We will explore 1 Peter 3 for some preparations for witnessing. Preparation for witnessing not only helps us in presenting a verbal witness but also helps us to live a lifestyle that will be an example. Let's look at the preparations that Peter talked about in 1 Peter 3.

A Christian lifestyle (vv. 8-12). Peter addressed the believers of Asia Minor about being prepared to live a Christian lifestyle. Verse 8 includes five expressions about the lifestyle of a Christian. Harmony is the first Peter mentions. "In harmony" means like-minded or of the same mind, not hostile or divided; respect for one another. The second is sympathy towards the feelings of others. The third is love as brothers. It is important that Christians be a community of brotherly love. God's love for us is the supreme example. We are to love one another. The fourth is compassion, having a tender heart; and the last is humility, or being able to see people as God sees them and not elevating ourselves above others. Peter goes one step further in verse 9 to say that Christians should overcome evil with good. This eliminates the get-even attitude and serves as a blessing to others. Peter used a quote from Psalm 34:12-16 in verses 10-12 to support what he had written in verses 8-9. These words support the fact that the Scriptures consistently teach God's high expectations concerning the lifestyle of his people. Our Christian witness is ineffective when our lifestyle does not match our words.

Being ready to witness (vv. 13-15). Blessings are promised to those who witness through their lifestyle. But living a Christian lifestyle could also place some in difficult circumstances. Peter was very aware of the threat of persecution for the Christians of Asia Minor. He used the word "if" in verse 14 to remind his readers that even if they were persecuted, they were blessed. God will honor the witness of all who serve him. Peter's advice was to always be prepared to give an answer (witness) to anyone who asks questions about their beliefs. But, he adds, give that answer "with gentleness and respect." We are not to be argumentative or overpowering in witnessing. The Holy Spirit has the power to convict. We are to be witnesses to God's love and what he has done in our lives.

Suffering as a result of witnessing (vv. 16-17). If persecution (slander) happens as a result of witnessing, it is better to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. The Christians to whom Peter wrote would be tested by the pagans. They would be slandered and maliciously accused. So Peter's advice in verses 14-15, plus the first part of verse 16 would set the pattern for Christian witnessing. If his readers would act with gentleness and respect, they would have a clear conscience even if they were persecuted. And it is better to suffer for doing good than evil.

Christians today suffer persecution in many ways. Some are very subtle, while others face bodily harm and even death. The same advice applies to us today. May we have the courage to witness regardless of what people may say or do.

The example and work of Christ (v. 18). The greatest example of a witness was Jesus himself. In his willingness to suffer to make salvation available, Jesus set an example that encourages Christians in their witnessing today. Jesus died for all, his suffering and death were for our sins, and it was once for all. The purpose of his death was to bring us to God. Jesus was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit. Peter was a witness of the resurrection. He knew that even though Jesus died, He was raised from death. This is our reason to be prepared for witnessing. Jesus died for us. Jesus lives for us. It is a wonderful message to share.

Burd is minister of education, First Church, Cleveland.

Uniform

God calls a deliverer



By Margaret H. Rogers
Exodus 3:1-4:17

God continued to fulfill his covenant with the Hebrew nation in the birth and call of Moses. Secular historians rank Moses as one of the greatest men in all history. Someone has estimated that one-seventh of the Old Testament story is devoted to the life and work of this remarkable man. He was a statesman, lawgiver, historian, emancipator, poet, and prophet.

Moses was the son of Amram and Jochebed of the tribe of Levi. The story of Moses is familiar. God used human instruments to protect his life when Pharaoh had ordered all Hebrew boys killed. His boyhood was spent in Pharaoh's palace where "he was learned in all the wisdom of Egypt." As the adopted son of Pharaoh's daughter, he had the benefits of the best education available to the royal family. It is evident that his own mother in those early years had acquainted him with the stories of his forefathers and their place in the Hebrew nation as His chosen people. God was preparing Moses for great achievements in the years to come.

The life of Moses falls into three periods of 40 years each. When he was 40 years old, he had to flee to the land of Midian where he spent 40 years becoming learned in desert life. This lesson begins at that point, the period of the actual accomplishment of the task to which God had called Moses.

The call at the burning bush (Exodus 3:1-7). This memorable experience near Mt. Horeb brought to an end the years in the wilderness of Midian. Moses turned aside and saw a bush that was burning without being consumed. God spoke to Moses, identifying himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God told Moses he had heard the cries of his people in Egypt and would deliver them.

Moses's hesitancy to accept the call (vv. 10-14). God told Moses he was the one called to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt and slavery. Awed by the enormity of the task and feeling unworthy, Moses offered several excuses before he accepted the task. Even with the excuses Moses used, he could not have been fully aware of the obstacles and difficulties he would face. Special reinforcements and encouragement were given by God, evidenced in his instruction to Moses to just say "I am has sent me."

The name of God in Hebrew is *Yahweh* (to be), and whatever else God implied by this name, it was his promise to be with Moses as he faced the people, Pharaoh, and the task ahead. Divine resources were available for the task of such magnitude. One of the great obstacles Moses faced was that of persuading the people themselves that they should and could leave Egypt. In their years of servitude they had lost the consciousness of their mission as a race. Their confidence had been destroyed; they were defeated and demoralized. Moses had to build their morale and persuade them to leave Egypt. At Moses's insistence, God gave him a spokesman in his brother, Aaron. Then God reminded Moses to carry his rod as it was to be used to perform miracles. Moses eventually accomplished the task God had given him.

What lessons can Christians learn from the life of Moses? Surely faith was demonstrated by Moses in accomplishing the task God gave him. A lesson in obedience can be gained from Moses' example; he obeyed at tremendous cost and risk. A lesson in service is obvious, for Moses spent many long years serving God on behalf of his people. There is another lesson in prayer, for again and again, Moses interceded to God for the nation. Christians need to remember today that divine strength is available to them when they obey God and follow his leadership. God still calls believers into service, the call which can be heard in the voice of Jesus, "Take up your cross daily and follow me."

Rogers is a member of Salem Church, Collins.

Bible Book

Micah pronounces judgment



By R. David Raddin
Micah 2:1-2; 3:1-4, 7-12

Micah was prophet to God's people in a time they refused to repent and turn from their sinful ways. Micah told of God's warning to turn away from their sin. The prophet pronounced God's judgment of his people.

Micah's name means "who is like the Lord." He prophesied "during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah" (1:1). Micah's message was to the northern and southern kingdoms, all of Israel. He was a contemporary of Isaiah.

The words of Micah ring true today. We live in a world dominated by people who refuse to turn to the Lord. Just as in the days of old, God offers the opportunity to repent. To those who refuse, judgment comes.

Reasons for God's judgment (2:1-2). God said that he would judge his people for "Jacob's transgression, because of the sins in the house of Israel" (1-5). Israel was led to be involved in pagan worship practices. Under Jeroboam I, Egyptian calf worship was introduced in the holy places at Bethel and Dan. Jezebel, the wife of King Ahab of Israel, was a leader in idolatrous religion and led Israel to follow her beliefs. Only a few of the people seemed troubled. Prophets were sent by the Lord, but the people ignored their message to repent and return to God. God judged the people for not turning to him.

The upper class of people began to live like the pagan nations. The wealthy landowners took the land of the poor farmers who could not meet the demands placed upon them. The peasants' "inheritance," the portion of the promised land allotted to them, was taken away. The injustice shown the poor was another reason God judged his people.

God judged his people and they were taken into captivity. In a time to come, restoration was to take place as a remnant of God's people would return to their land. For the present, judgment had come.

Moral corruption brings judgment (3:1-4, 7-12). The leaders of Israel and Judah became corrupt and treated the people cruelly. "The heads of Jacob" and "the rulers of the house of Israel" refers to state officials. These officials who were intended to lead the nation in the ways of God became those who led the nation to defeat.

Micah's indictment of the leaders was clear. They were so caught up in selfish ambition that they refused to hear the prophet. Their ways were evil.

Micah described the leaders as "you who hate good and love evil" (v. 2). They had been chosen to follow the Lord; they chose exactly the opposite. The rulers are described as people who slaughter, skin, and cook flesh. The meaning of these terms is that the upper, ruling class treated the common people as a butcher would an animal.

In verse 7, Micah exposed the false prophets, those who led the people away from the Lord. "Seer" was a legitimate word for a prophet. Micah describes the illegitimate nature of those claiming to be prophets yet living against the ways of God. "Diviners" were those who practiced magic and soothsaying. Micah prophesied, "The seers will be ashamed and the diviners disgraced" (v. 7). God would not answer those who led the people astray.

Verse 8 contrasts the ministry of Micah to the misery of the ways of the false prophets. Micah declares, "But as for me, I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the Lord, and with justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression, to Israel his sin" (v. 8). Micah's prophecy against the people for their sin was a word to them from the Lord.

Micah indicates the whole group of Judah's leaders, judges, priests, prophets and all. Their rebellion against the Lord brought his judgement. The leaders went through their outward routine as those who "lean upon the Lord," but their inward spirit was wicked. In verse 12, the rulers were told that because of them, judgment would come upon themselves and the people.

May we hear the Word of the Lord, repent of our sin, and turn to God. Pray that as a nation and as individuals we will serve the Lord with all our hearts.

Raddin is pastor, First Church, Summit.

Navajo home missionary hopes for greater racial understanding

By David Winfrey

ARLINGTON, Texas (BP) — Growing up on a Navajo Indian reservation, Russell Begaye remembers first-hand the effects of racist policies against native Americans in his school.

"I grew up under this system where our mouths were washed out with soap any time we spoke our native language," said Begaye, assistant director for the Home Mission Board's language church extension division.

Begaye, a full-blooded Navajo Indian, was appointed in May as one of three Southern Baptists on the Baptist World Alliance's new commission on racism.

The commission was formed after the April riots in Los Angeles and other cities. It is charged with exploring the origins of racism, biblical answers to racism and solutions for local Baptist churches to combat racism.

Although American Indians are no longer forbidden from speaking in their own languages in classrooms, Begaye said the mindset behind such policies remains.

"Just because we passed a law that eliminated the two bathrooms and the drinking fountains doesn't mean the feelings have stopped," he said. "The signs aren't there. The policies have changed but the attitude is still there."

Attitudes have been passed from generation to generation, he said, and more interaction between ethnic groups is necessary before people will appreciate other cultures.

Even the common concept of Columbus discovering America represents a view Begaye contends is ripe with racism.

"When you use the words 'discovery of America,' you're automatically classifying Indians as a non-person," he said. "You are saying that when Columbus came there were no people here. There were either savages or beasts."

Begaye, a graduate of Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, said he hopes the commission will consider more than just traditional Anglo racism against blacks and other ethnic groups.

"There's racism at various levels. Not just color of the skin but economic, education, social status," he said. "The most vicious racism sometimes occurs among your own groups."

Institutional racism also is a threat as some groups and state governments have tried to get U.S. treaties dealing with American Indian rights to land, water and mineral rights abolished, Begaye said.

"That type of racism towards American Indians will increase,"

he said. "We will see more and more organizations wanting to remove the special status of American Indians in the United States."

The biblical answer to racism, he said, is as simple as Jesus' commandment, "Love your neighbor as yourself." He points to his own life as an example of God's love conquering man's hate.

For two years in college, Begaye was a member of the American Indian Movement, a group he now calls "radical" that participated in college and courthouse sit-ins across California in the interest of Indian rights.

"The more I got involved, the greater my bitterness became," said Begaye, who now lives in Arlington, Texas.

The hatred was gone, however, after he rededicated his life to Christ, he said. "The Lord just took that away."

"The ability to deal with racism, I think, comes from the Lord," he said. "Today I have no bitterness, no resentment, no animosity towards any race. And I believe it's because, as the Bible says, the love of God fills your heart so much that you begin to love people with the love of Christ."

Winfrey is associate director of news and information for HMB.



Mississippi staffers at Glorieta

Mississippi summer staffers at Glorieta (N. M.) Baptist Assembly are, from left to right: Lendon and Helen Brown, Carthage; Joe and Irene Smith, Morton; Glenn and Helen Kellum, Oxford; Tina Simms, Rienze; and Kevin Donald, Picayune. The Browns, Smiths, and Kellums hooked up their RVs and went to Glorieta to serve in various capacities, including security gate guard, washateria manager, post office worker, bookkeeper, and Chuckwagon caterer. Simms worked in food service with the Chuckwagon, and Donald served as support worker throughout the summer.

Unsaved persons create a dilemma for Sunday School

RIDGECREST, N.C. — Southern Baptist Sunday Schools may be repelling the people they are actually intending to reach, according to an adult Sunday School consultant.

"If Sunday School is an organization to reach unsaved persons, why aren't they comfortable in our classes?" David Apple asked in a session at a Sunday School Leadership Conference at Ridgecrest Conference Center July 25-31.

Apple, a consultant in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Sunday School division, challenged workers to be aware of how unsaved persons feel when they enter a class.

"Some of the things we do to make them feel welcome may actually make them uncomfortable," Apple said. "We may ask questions because we are interest-

ed, but they may think we are interrogating them to see if they fit into our group."

Questions such as where they live, where they work or what church they attend regularly may seem innocent from our perspective, but not to them, Apple said.

"We are shooting ourselves in the foot with our one chance to make an impression on an unsaved person," he said.

Apple suggested that Sunday School workers equip class members in advance to deal with unsaved persons before they arrive. "Help class members be open and accepting of persons who come in," he said.

"We have said we are to reach all people. The issue is God's love," Apple said. "We need to meet the needs of people by teaching God's Word in a loving and accepting way."

CLC asks court of appeals to accept religious liberty case

By Tom Strode

WASHINGTON (BP) — The religious freedom of a hearing-impaired parochial school student is violated unless he is provided a government-funded interpreter like other deaf children in public and nonreligious private schools, according to a friend-of-the-court brief filed by seven groups including the Christian Life Commission.

The CLC joined the Christian Legal Society and five other groups in asking the Supreme Court to accept the case in its next term, which begins in October.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in May a school district would be guilty of establishing religion if it paid for an interpreter for James Zobrest, a student at a Catholic high school in Arizona. The court also said the free-exercise-of-religion rights of the student and his parents were violated, but the government's interest in preventing an establishment of religion overrode their religious liberty.

"In other words, the Establishment Clause means the opposite of the Free Exercise Clause, and the Establishment Clause predominates where there is conflict," the brief says of the Ninth Circuit's opinion. "When a court finds a direct conflict between the claus-

es... that is a strong warning that one of the clauses has been misinterpreted.

"Neither of the components of the Religion Clause is a trump card. Instead, the interests on both sides must be weighed with a view toward minimizing governmental impact on private religious choices."

Because the parents' choice of the Catholic school was a private one, there is no violation of the separation of church and state, the brief argues. Even if the Supreme Court decides "such even-handed aid advances religion," its advancement would be minimal and would be overridden by the free-exercise rights of the student and his parents, the brief says.

The CLC and others included in the brief "do not advocate indirect aid to religious schools," said Michael Whitehead, CLC general counsel. "The brief advocates equal access by tax-paying parents to public school services which are religiously neutral. Providing a sign interpreter is as religiously neutral as providing a hearing aid."

"Such services can be provided to parents and students in such a way that it cannot be fairly criticized as 'parochial aid,'" Whitehead said.

"In this case, the parents and their child receive the benefit of

the public service and control the choice of where to use it, not the private school. No public money goes to the religious school to promote religious indoctrination," Whitehead said.

Strode is director of media and news information, Washington office, CLC.

Devotional...

Prayer came first

By Indy Whitten

The Pleasant Hill Church of Calhoun Association has experienced an outpouring of God's blessings recently. It was facing the need for building more educational space for its 275-member church, and perhaps to enlarge the sanctuary. A "Together We Build" program was about to be started when the pastor and other church leaders became convinced that a "Together We Pray" program was more what they needed.

As the congregation began to pray at church and at homes in cottage prayer meetings, the petition went up to God that 40 people would be saved. Even before this number was reached, they began to claim an additional 40 for the Lord. Twenty people made professions of faith at the summer revival and up to this date, since February, 54 have accepted Christ.

The building need is still there, but no doubt the "Together We Build" will be made easier because prayer came first.

Terrell McGregor, pastor, is the first to say, "This is the Lord's doing."

Whitten and her husband are volunteer prayer ministry coordinators, MBCB.

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